## AFP: Italian priest moved to another MILF unit

STORY ON PAGE A2

## CMMA honors media with 'conscience'

IS THERE good news about the news, about how it is produced and consumed in the Philippines? If you ask the influential Archbishop of Manila, the answer is a ringing Yes. Since 1978, through the lean years of martial rule and the fat years of the two Edsas, the Catholic Mass Media Awards have recognized outstanding examples of mass media work "with a conscience."

CMMA/ A20

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2001 ★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 318 ₱15

## Was Erap's favored engineer kidnapped?

**By G. Lacuarta, C. Yamsuan and R. Ponte**

NO ONE is sure if former President Estrada's favorite engineer, who allegedly supervised the renovation of the Ejercito ancestral home, was kidnapped or not.

There were two versions that surfaced yes-

WAS/ A20

# Coup rumors persist

## Opposition says 'Black October' plot hatched by PNP, AFP

## Anthrax kills 2 US postal workers

WASHINGTON—Anthrax terrorism has taken a turn for the worse as it claimed the lives of two postal workers, sent two more to the hospital, and forced doctors to prescribe preventive antibiotics to almost 10,000 people in this city alone. Nine postal workers with suspicious symptoms have also been placed under constant watch.

Investigators still don't know the source of the anthrax, or whether it is related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But Tom Ridge, the US director of homeland security, repeatedly tied the anthrax attack to the war that US forces are waging in Afghanistan.

"There's one war, but there are two fronts," he said.

Testing for anthrax continued at the Brentwood postal facility, a week after a tainted letter first appeared on Capitol Hill. Health offi-

ANTHRAX/ A19

## Psycho terrorism victims up

**By Rafael R. Castillo, MD**
*Contributor*

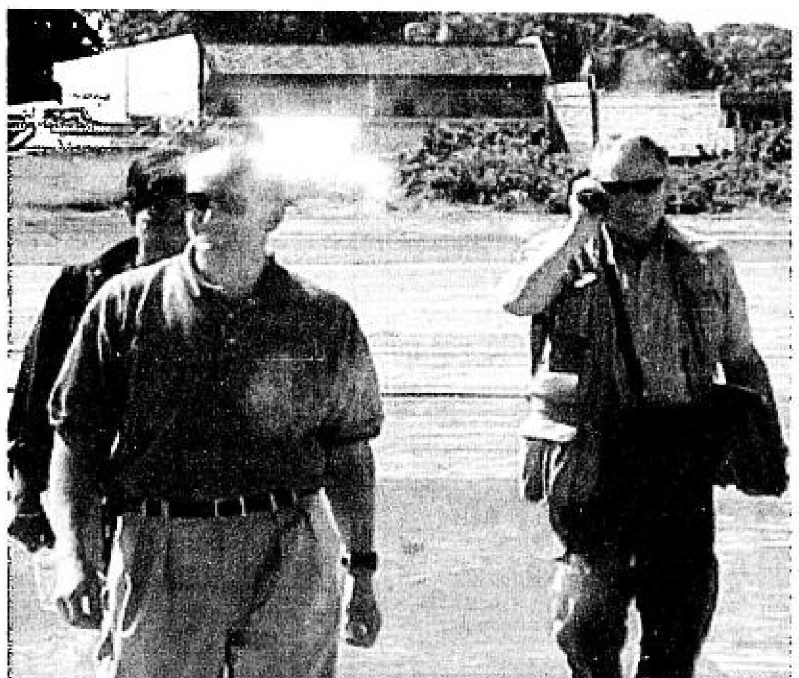
JAY B., an 8-year-old first grader who had repeatedly viewed videos of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York, has been having recurrent nightmares about jet planes crashing into their house. He has been absent from school for eight days during the past four weeks, complaining of various ailments ranging from headache to abdominal pain. After the anthrax scare, he also started complaining of a feverish sensation and itchiness of the body and throat that was causing a dry hacking cough.

But the school physician could not find anything wrong with him.

PSYCHO/ A19

**HELP is on the way** *(See story below)* **for weary Army troopers in hot pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf bandits since April in Basilan.**

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU



**"COORDINATORS," not advisers or consultants. This is how the US anti-terrorist team members are to be called, according to the AFP Southern Command. Six of them arrived in Zamboanga City on Tuesday to coordinate with military commanders on how to do battle against the Abu Sayyaf Group who's known to have links with Osama bin Laden.**

AFP

WAR without borders

### ADVANCE GROUP

## US counter-terror team now in Zambo

**By Julie Alipala-Inot**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The advance party of the US counter-terrorism team that would help in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan arrived here yesterday.

"They belong to the service support group, the one responsible for necessary coordination such as billeting, communications and (others)," Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, told reporters.

Cimatu said the rest of the US "military coordinators," as he preferred to call them, would arrive today.

But he told reporters in Manila that the rest would be coming tomorrow and would stay "for one week."

The Americans headed straight to a meeting with Southcom intelligence officials, Agence France-Presse quoted Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Darwin Guerra as saying.

The INQUIRER witnessed the arrival of the six Americans on board a King Lear Jet C-12 with plane number 63239.

The plane landed around 9 a.m. at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Barangay Sta. Maria here.

A silver-gray van arrived shortly thereafter and the team's luggage, including a big box, was loaded in it. The Americans, apparently trying to avoid reporters, went straight to the VIP lounge.

US/ A20

**By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora**

**AT AN ungodly hour of 2 a.m. on Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo conferred with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport about rumors of a destabilization plot codenamed Black October.**

The briefing couldn't wait and was done right after Ms Macapagal arrived from Shanghai where she attended the 9th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit but cut short her trip by 12 hours.

Did she return home sooner than scheduled due to increasing loud rumors of a coup?

They're not just rumors, according to the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP). Elements in the Philippine National Police (PNP) were involved in the destabilization plot, which the PMP said was aimed at diverting attention from the investigation of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's alleged involvement in corruption involving billions of pesos in public funds.

In a statement, PMP spokesperson Jesus Remulla said the opposition's sources inside the Armed Forces and the PNP revealed that the destabilization campaign was also aimed at catapulting the Central Luzon police director, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, to the top PNP post. Berroya is the archenemy of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief.

The plot includes assassinations, bombings and a coup attempt—all of which will be blamed on supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada, according to Remulla.

Reports of a possible coup did not take military intelligence men by surprise.

"They (higher-ups) are discussing it," one said.

"So, what's new?" said another.

Their comments came as military and defense officials remained unavailable for comment.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao confirmed that Ms Macapagal and Reyes had conferred upon the President's arrival.

At first, Tiglao said the two merely discussed normal security concerns like the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

He later admitted that the President and Reyes had discussed what he described as "rumors" of a de-

COUP/ A20

## US jets attack Bin Laden's base

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—US jets on Tuesday attacked a stronghold of Osama bin Laden's fighters north of Kabul and set fire to critical Taliban oil supplies in the southern city of Kandahar.

Opposition officials also reported US attacks around the key northern city Mazar-e-Sharif where an opposition offensive to recapture the stronghold faltered last week.

In recent days, the United States has shifted strategy, drawing planes away from urban areas to target frontline positions of the Taliban and their allies in Bin Laden's al-Qaida network facing the opposition Northern Alliance.

The goal is to enable the alliance to advance toward Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif and break the back of Taliban resistance. President George W. Bush launched the air campaign Oct. 7 after the Taliban refused to surrender Bin Laden, chief suspect in last month's terrorist attacks in the United States.

At mid-afternoon, reporters at this northern alliance stronghold could hear the roar of jets and several huge explosions.

Opposition spokesperson Waisuddin

US JETS/ A20

## *'Little President' grilled over abusive escorts*

**By Juliet L. Javellana**

*ET tu*, Bert?

A complaint with which many motorists are familiar—that of abusive security convoys escorting government officials—has centered on the mild-mannered "Little President," Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

LITTLE/ A6

MGA ABUSADO!

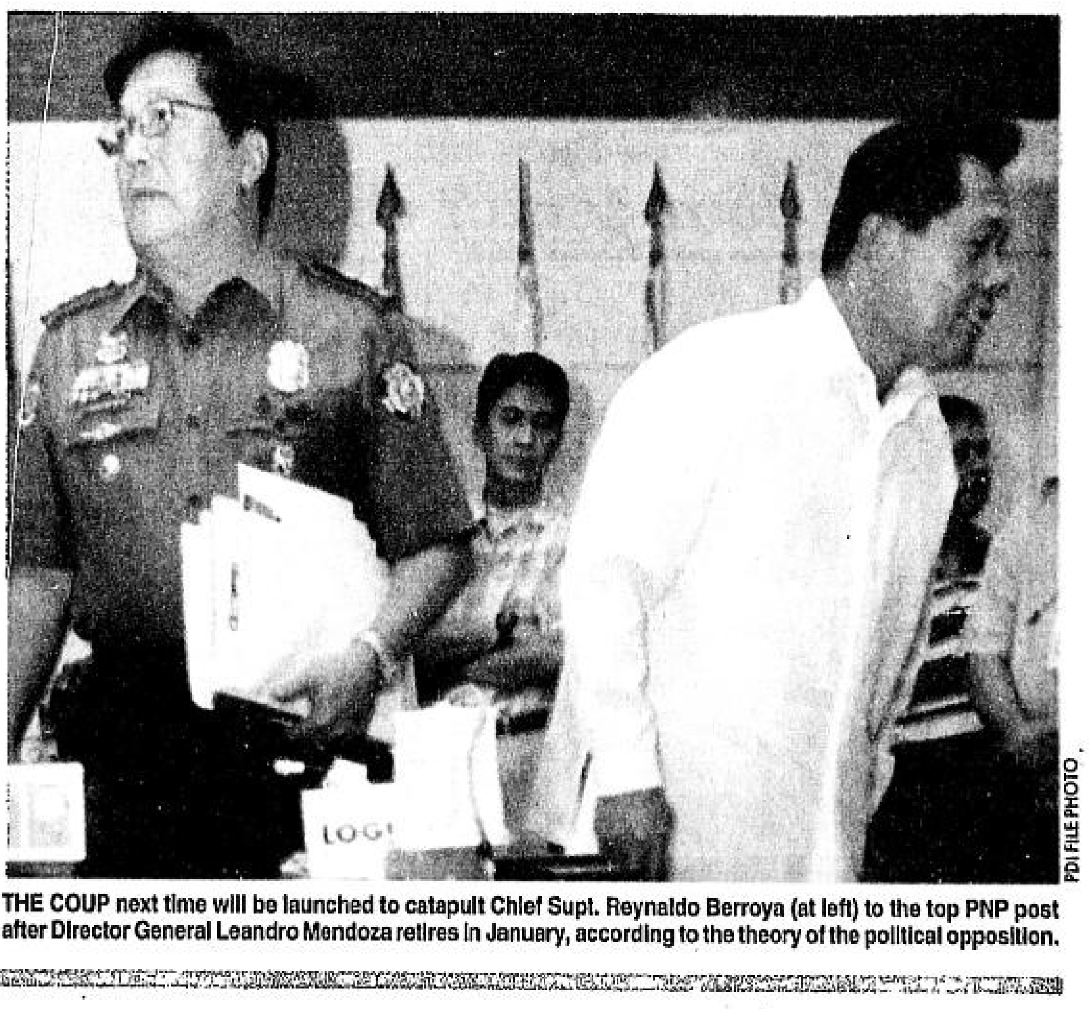
## Congress 'pork' now on the Net

**By Carlito Pablo**

TAXPAYERS can now keep an eye on how representatives and senators spend their pork barrel, a source of kickbacks for legislators and public works and local officials.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) yesterday said it would post on a website

CONGRESS/ A6



PDI FILE PHOTO

**THE COUP next time will be launched to catapult Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya (at left) to the top PNP post after Director General Leandro Mendoza retires in January, according to the theory of the political opposition.**

ILIGTAS YAN BAGO MAG RAMADAN!

## CUSTODY MERRY-GO-ROUND

# Still no sign of priest

By Martin P. Marfil

**THE PHILIPPINE Army yesterday said that kidnapped Italian priest Guiseppe Pierantoni has been transferred to another Moro Islamic Liberation Front unit, a charge which the rebel group has denied.**

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta said the Army had received reports that the priest was no longer with the MILF's 303rd unit commanded by Ustadz Ali Acas.

In Malabang, Lanao del Sur, Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, head of the Task Force Giuseppe, said the 44-year-old missionary was now being held by another group based in Kalanugas town.

The group is led by Aleem Amiladin, reported to be a relative of a Lanao del Sur town mayor, and a certain Commander Aguila.

Atutubo said the Amiladin group had met "briefly" with Akas, whose unit is said to be based in a camp in Sultan Gumander town.

Mabanta cast doubt on MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu's earlier denial that the Akas had custody of Fr. Pierantoni. He said the areas in which the priest was being held were all MILF strongholds.

"He may not be there (with Akas) anymore... but he is still being held in areas that are strongholds of the MILF," Mabanta said.

He said the government was holding the MILF responsible for the Italian's safety.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the MILF should prove its sincerity by using its influence to free Pierantoni.

The 44-year-old Bologna native was abducted last week in Zamboanga del Sur where he has done missionary work for the past 10 years.

Adan said the military was checking into charges by some officers that the MILF was already in control of Fr. Pierantoni.

"We want to see that, the proof that the MILF is really not involved in activities that are illegal and criminal," Adan said.

Yesterday, Kabalu reiterated in a phone interview that the MILF was not holding Pierantoni and that they were still trying to determine which group was holding the victim.

He also said they were willing to help in the negotiations for the release of the priest.

"There is no truth to that (that the priest is being held by Akas). In fact, Commander Akas is in Camp Abubakar, he is not even our operations officer. He is not also the commander of the 303rd brigade. That (post is being held) by Commander Bravo," Kabalu said.

Asked if Commander Faisal Marohambsar, the leader of the Pentagon kidnap group believed to have ties with the MILF, was the one holding the priest, Kabalu said Marohambsar has denied it.

"We'll help in the negotiations... (but) we have to know first who staged the kidnapping. Nothing is clear," Kabalu said.

Asked if there was a formal request for their help, Kabalu said the MILF would help and coordinate with the government "with or without" a request.

Atutubo said some Kalanugas residents had reported seeing a "white man" being escorted by heavily armed men.

Search-and-rescue operations are now going on in Kalanugas town and the coastal area of Malabang.

Malabang Mayor Anwar Balindong, who met with Atutubo yesterday, said he would initiate negotiations as some of the suspects were reported to be local residents.

Atutubo said the military will have to work "overtime" to obtain Fr. Pierantoni's release before the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in November as it would be difficult for the troops to operate during the period. *With a report from Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*

# *Ma pleads for priest's release*

ROME—The mother of an Italian priest abducted in the Philippines last week appealed for his son's release, saying that, once free, he will continue loving and helping those who are in need.

The appeal by Giuseppina Pierantoni, the mother of the Rev. Giuseppe Pierantoni, was carried by the Catholic Missionary news service MISNA on Monday.

"I beg you, with all my heart, to let him go," the woman said. "I'm very worried about him, because he has already had health problems, which could reemerge," she added, without elaborating.

Giuseppe "always wanted to share his life with the poor and the simple people and for this reason came to your land," Misna quoted Giuseppina Pierantoni as saying. "I know my son and I am sure that once free, he will continue loving you and helping those in need, as he has always done."

The 44-year-old Pierantoni was kidnapped Wednesday in the Philippines by at least nine men believed to be former separatist guerrillas.

In that same region, several Filipino and foreign Catholic priests have been targeted in the past by Muslim guerrillas and bandits.

Pierantoni, who comes from Bologna in central Italy, is a missionary from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. *AP*

# Naia closed for repairs

By N. Bordadora

A MINOR terrorist scare hit the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday after incoming and outgoing flights were diverted and delayed. The reason: a huge chunk of the airport's runway for international flights gave way and developed dangerous gaping cracks, forcing authorities to suspend operations for two hours.

Repairs are expected to be completed by 9 last night.

The Airport Ground Operations Division of the Naia immediately announced that the runway damage was due to wear and tear. Reports reaching the command center showed that the hole measured about four to five square meters.

The damage to Runway 0624, nonetheless, caused inconvenience to travelers—both Filipinos and foreigners—after international operations were stopped for more than two hours when workers rushed to the area for the much-needed repairs.

One Cathay Pacific flight—CX 919, which was carrying hundreds of passengers—was turned back and told to return to Hong Kong.

Other incoming flights affected were those of Singapore Airlines, Royal Brunei Airlines, Continental Airlines and Japan Airlines.

The Naia Public Affair Office revealed that these flights have been advised to proceed to the country's other international airports such as the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the Clark Free zone in Pampanga.

Thousands of passengers were likewise stranded in Terminals 1 and 2 after their respective flights were grounded while Naia's maintenance crew rushed repairs.

Affected outgoing flights were those of Thai Airways, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Qantas, Lufthansa, Air New Guinea, China Southern, Continental Airlines and Philippine Airlines.

Repairs would reportedly need three cubic meters of asphalt.

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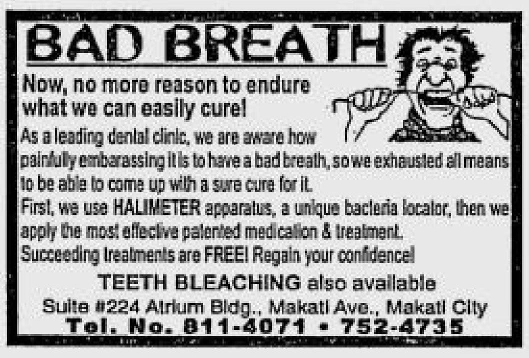
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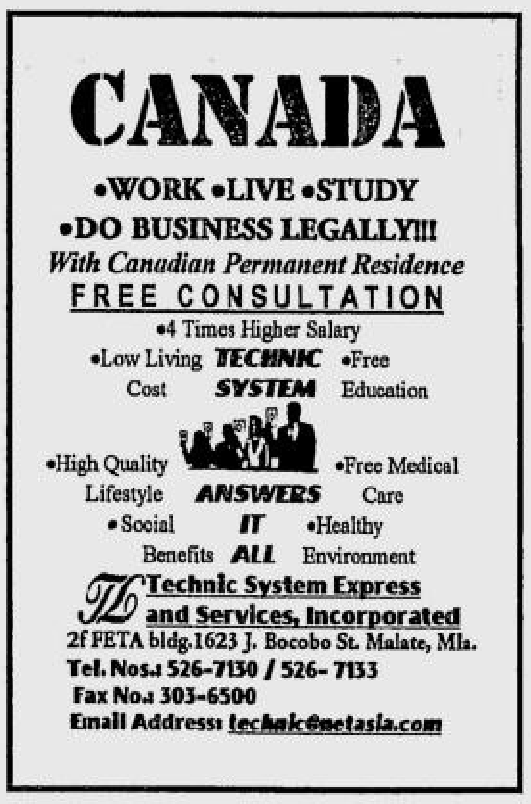
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# SC affirms Sanchez rape-slay conviction

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court First Division has affirmed with finality the conviction of former Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez and his six henchmen for seven counts of rape with homicide in connection with the 1993 rape-killing of University of the Philippines Los Baños student Eileen Sarmenta and the murder of her friend Allan Gomez.

In a 13-page resolution, the SC First Division chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. junked the motion for reconsideration filed by Sanchez et al. seeking to reverse the judgment of conviction by former Pasig Judge Harriet Demetriou.

However, the high court decision promulgated on Oct. 18 reduced by P2.3 million the civil and other damages awarded to the heirs of Sarmenta and Gomez, who were senior agriculture students at the UPLB.

In its January 1999 decision, the SC originally ordered the seven convicts to pay P6.2 million to the Sarmentas and P6.3 million to the Gomezes.

But the court found Sanchez's contention as to the amount of damages "meritorious" and thus ordered to reduce the amount.

The SC also affirmed in toto the judgment of conviction it rendered on Jan. 25, 1999, which earlier affirmed the lower court's decision.

Demetriou had convicted Sanchez and his security aides George Medialdea, Zoilo Ama, Baldwin Brion, Luis Corcolon, Rogelio Corcolon and Pepito Kawit, and sentenced them to reclusion perpetua.

They were found to have conspired on June 28, 1993 to rape Sarmenta, who was with Gomez at the time, in an abandoned Toyota Tamaraw van along the railroad tracks in Sitio Paputok, Barangay Mabacan, Calauan. Their bodies were later found in two remote Calauan barangays at about three kilometers away from each other.

However, Sanchez et al. filed a motion for reconsideration, saying they were victims of trial and conviction by publicity, among other grounds.

Sanchez claimed that principal witnesses Aurelio Centeno and Vicencio Malabanan presented by the prosecution were lacking in credibility.

He contended that the testimony of his 13-year-old daughter vis-a-vis his whereabouts on the night of the felony should have been given full faith and credit against the testimony of Centeno and Malabanan.

Also, the former mayor had sought for a reconsideration of the allegedly "gargantuan" civil damages awarded to their victims' heirs.

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# Abu leader's aide blows himself up

MALUSO, Basilan—A detained member of the Abu Sayyaf committed suicide yesterday by detonating a grenade, the military said.

Bochoy Laja Ordoñez, an aide of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, was captured by the military at a market in Maluso on Thursday while buying medicine, cigarettes and other supplies.

The military said Ordoñez led them to a hideout of the Abu Sayyaf in jungle outside the town on Sunday, prompting a heavy clash between the military and the guerrillas.

Military Staff Sgt. Ramile Taule, who guarded Ordoñez at a dilapidated school building in Maluso, said the Abu Sayyaf man apparently got hold of a grenade early yesterday.

"I went to relieve myself but when I looked back, I saw him holding something under the blanket. I asked 'What's that?' Then there was an explosion," Taule, who was himself hit by shrapnel in both legs, told reporters.

He said Ordoñez, who was in handcuffs, had probably stolen the grenade.

The military used helicopter gunships and heavy weapons in the clash and officers say they believed the guerrillas suffered heavy losses. But the fighting was in thick jungle and no bodies were found. Only blood.

The guerrillas, who are holding 11 hostages including an American couple kept in captivity for almost five months, have been linked to the al-Qaida network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden.

**SGT.** Taule: Wounded in blast.

CHARLIE SACEDA

The United States, which has named Bin Laden as the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks, has sent a team of advisers to the Philippines to help crack down on the Abu Sayyaf.

On Tuesday, a five-man military section of the team arrived in Zamboanga, the staging point of military operations in the area and went into discussions with local officers.

There has been little fighting in the area since Sunday night, but army officers said troops were in pursuit of the rebels and believed the hostages were in tow.

Military spokesperson Gen. Edilberto Adan said in a radio interview that the military hoped to "drastically reduce the capability" of the Abu Sayyaf by November by capturing their leaders.

"We would have brought down (the Abu Sayyaf problem)... by the end of the month to a police level situation," he said.

The group has two main factions—one operating on Basilan and one on nearby Jolo. The Jolo faction kidnapped Westerners and other tourists from a Malaysian beach resort last year and according to local media received some $20 million in ransom payments. In fighting on Jolo on Sunday, the military claimed it had killed 18 rebels.

The Basilan faction abducted 20 people, including three Americans, from a resort in Palawan on May 27.

It has executed one American, and is still holding Gracia and Martin Burnham, a couple who were both working for the US-based New Tribes Mission.

Many of the Filipino hostages have been released in exchange for ransom and some have been executed. The guerrillas have also kidnapped fresh victims while fleeing troop pursuit on Basilan. *Reuters*

## ERAP APPOINTEE

# Prosecutors want justice out

**By Volt Contreras**

STATE prosecutors are seeking to stop a Sandiganbayan justice appointed by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada from hearing the first of two perjury cases filed against the deposed leader.

Associate Justice Gregory Ong, who is one of three justices in the anti-graft court's 1st Division, "may not be able to assume the cold neutrality of an impartial judge" as he owes his position to accused, the prosecutors said.

In a motion for inhibition filed yesterday, Special Prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo cited Ong's "closeness" to both Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, as well as his being a resident of San Juan where the Estrada father and son had served as town mayors.

They also questioned Ong's promotion to the Sandiganbayan, suggesting that Estrada went against the policies of the Judicial and Bar Council when he appointed Ong.

According to the motion, while the requirement for the position that Ong occupies was 10 years' experience as a local court judge, Ong had served for only four years as a regional trial court judge in Pasig.

The prosecutors earlier filed a motion asking the entire 1st Division chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to inhibit itself from the perjury case. The motion was dismissed in open court.

The 1st Division is hearing a perjury case stemming from Estrada's alleged misdeclaration of his assets and liabilities for 1999.

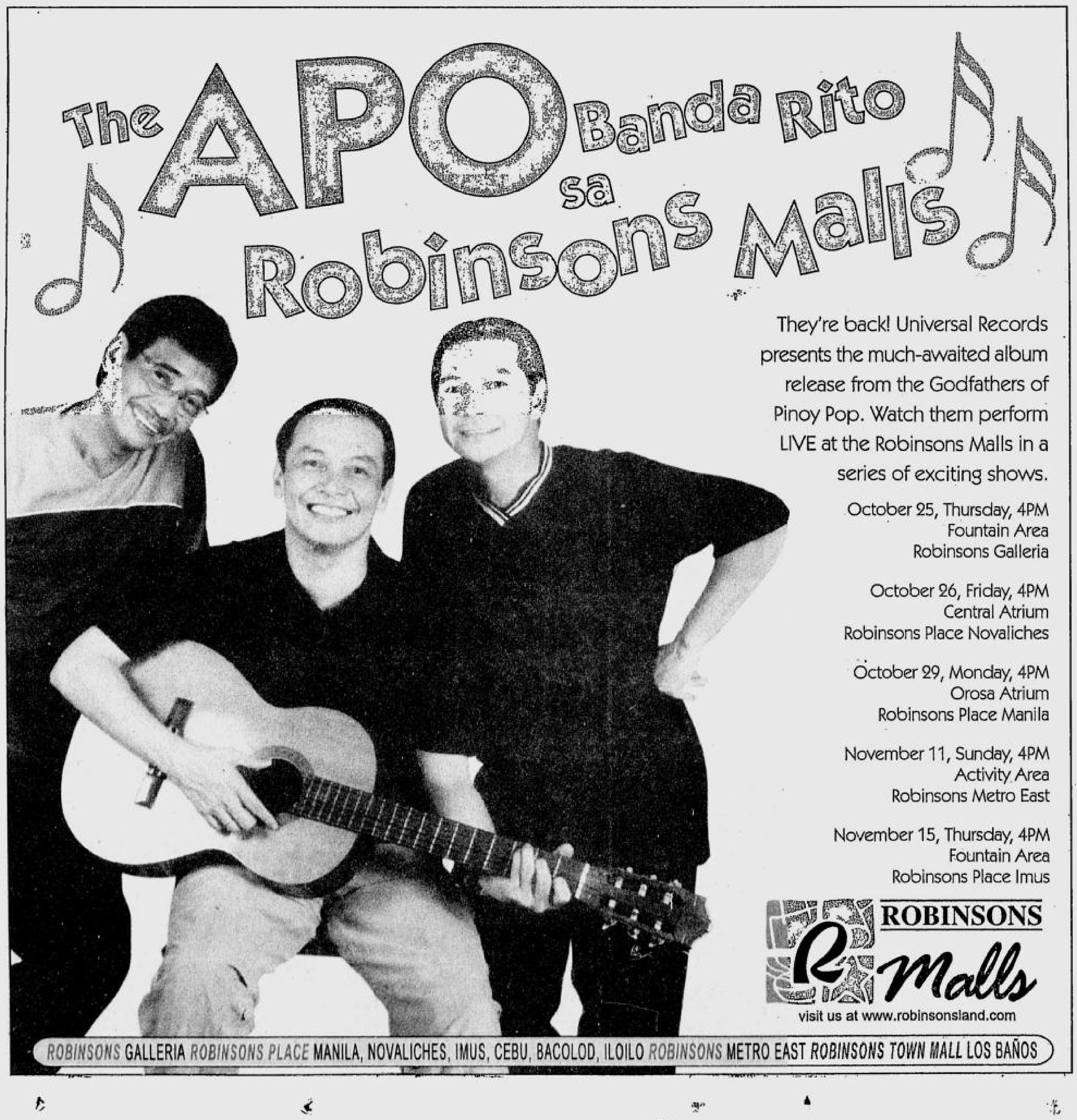
The Ombudsman last week filed a second perjury case against the jailed ex-president, this time concerning his alleged undeclared wealth in his 1998 statement of assets and liabilities.

The second perjury case has been raffled off to the Third Division, which is also hearing the more serious case of plunder against Estrada.

Concerning the perjury case before the 1st Division, Estrada's lawyers yesterday filed a motion seeking the cancellation of the Oct. 10 subpoena issued to prosecution witness William Chua, the corporate secretary of the Asia United Banking Corp.

In a motion to quash, the defense said the subpoena was "too general," and violated Section 1 of the Rules of Court which requires a subpoena to contain "a reasonable description of the books, documents or things demanded which must appear to the court prima facie relevant."

Chua is scheduled to testify in the perjury case from Oct. 29 to 31 along with other bank officials.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# NBI chief faces court's contempt

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

THE JUSTICE department yesterday asked a Makati court to cite for contempt National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco for allegedly ordering the transfer of detainees from the NBI jail without court authority.

State Prosecutor Peter Ong filed a motion to cite Wycoco for contempt for ordering the transfer of Reynaldo Patacsil, who ran for congressman in the May elections, and six others from the NBI jail to the Makati City jail.

Ong claimed the transfer had been made allegedly without a written authority from the Makati Regional Trial Court, which is hearing the criminal cases against Patacsil and the other accused.

Patacsil, a political rival of Rep. Cynthia Villar, and six others were charged with syndicated estafa and illegal securities trading for engaging in currency trading without a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Patacsil is the owner/financier of the Bestway/Belkin Management Consultancy. The other accused were Belkin officials Enrico Lopez, Khawar Rafi Abbasi, Sharon Go Lauruan, Mariano Pefianco, Corazon Kanenari and Luzviminda Portuguez.

Wycoco, however, said he was merely following a directive from former Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero, which bars the NBI from handling estafa cases and violations of Batas Pambansa Bilang 22, known as the Bouncing Checks Law.

"The DOJ memorandum orders the NBI to refrain from handling these type of cases so that the agency will not be used for personal interest of some people," he said.

Wycoco said that he had also ordered the transfer because of insinuations that the NBI was giving special treatment to Patacsil.

"So what I did was to order the transfer to avoid any impression of favoritism (on my part) and to avoid disobeying the memorandum of the Secretary of Justice," he added.

Wycoco said the transfer was made on Friday afternoon.

"He was received properly and under receipt by the Makati City jail since the cases have been filed with the Makati RTC," he said.

Patacsil et al. were arrested by the NBI on Sept. 24 during a raid of the Belkin office on Legaspi Village in Makati. The raid was authorized by a search warrant issued by Branch 57 of the Makati RTC.

The raiding team found the officers and employees of Bestway/Belkin "in *flagrante delicto* (while in the act) of trading foreign currency."

The team seized computer units that were allegedly used in the illegal trading of securities.

The seven were charged with violation of Section 11 in relation to Section 73 of Republic Act 8799 and for 12 counts of estafa under Article 315 (2)(a) of the Revised Penal Code in relation to Presidential Decree 1689.

The justice department also recommended the continued detention of the seven since a syndicated estafa, which was carried out by soliciting funds from the public, is non-bailable as it carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment to death.

The seven allegedly defrauded three investors of investments reaching $41,000.

# Shabu, marijuana found in Senate session hall

By Cynthia D. Balana

WAS it a plant, a frame-up, or a prank with intent to embarrass?

The Senate was thrown into an uproar late Monday when .16 grams of shabu and a stick of marijuana were discovered in the session hall, just minutes after Sen. Robert Barbers delivered a speech on the need for a comprehensive anti-drugs law.

Barbers, the chair of the Senate committee on public order and safety, urged senators, employees and even media people assigned to the Senate to undergo a drug test, a suggestion that immediately elicited harsh reactions from some senators.

The shabu and marijuana were inside an eyeglass case found lying on one of the gallery chairs that had been reserved for the staff of Sen. Ralph Recto.

A member of Sen. Francis Pangilinan's staff found the prohibited items at the end of the session.

Agents from the PNP crime laboratory who were asked to examine the stuff confirmed that one of the items was indeed shabu.

Recto vouched for the integrity of the members of his staff. He said they had all been personally handpicked by him.

Recto said he and his staff would voluntarily submit to a drug test to prove their innocence.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel protested at what he said was an invasion of his privacy.

"I do not smoke and I don't take drugs, why would I take a drug test?" he said.

He said the drugs could have been planted by someone who wanted to embarrass the Senate which is investigating the trade in illegal drugs.

"For what purpose?" asked Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who suggested that since the stuff had not been found on any of the chairs reserved for the senators, only those sitting on the left side of the gallery where the items were found should be subjected to a drug test and investigated.

Biazon said that it would be "overacting" for senators to panic and submit themselves to a drug test.

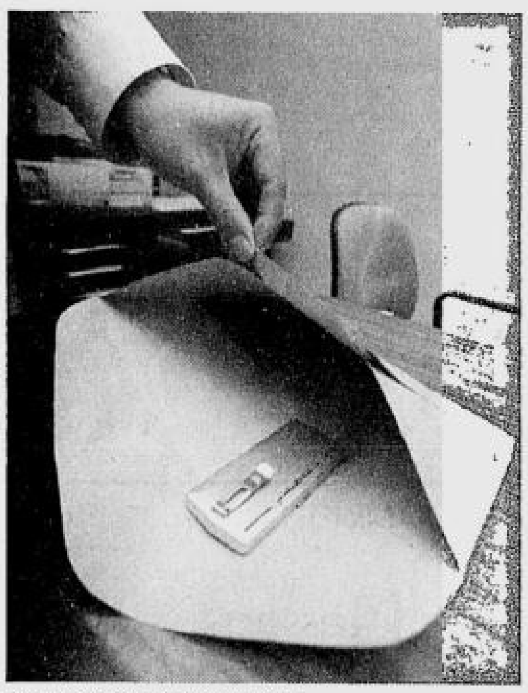
Sen. Joker Arroyo cautioned his peers against undertaking such a massive round of drug tests or an investigation.

"The Senate should not be stampeded into an investigation just because a crackpot puts shabu on purpose or accidentally," Arroyo said.

"If the purpose is to embarrass, then we will fall into a game plan," he said.

Barbers said a probe into the incident and a compulsory drug test would show the people that the senators were not tolerating illegal drug use.

He said there was nothing wrong with leading by example since Cabinet members themselves and members of the police force have undergone drug tests.



DRUG CASE in Senate hall

# Int'l court set to rule on RP bid

THE HAGUE—The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is scheduled to announce on Tuesday whether the Philippines can intervene in a territorial dispute between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to allow the ICJ to settle their dispute over the ownership of the islands of Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan, situated off the coast of Sabah, on the island of Borneo.

Sipadan is the site of a Malaysian resort where Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted 21 western tourists and Asian resort staff in April 2000.

Manila wants to intervene because the disposition of the islands could have a bearing on its dormant territorial claim to the Malaysian state of Sabah.

In a series of public hearings last June, representatives from the Philippines plead their case before the court.

Indonesia and Malaysia both oppose giving the Philippines a say in their dispute over the tiny islands.

*AFP*

# J.V. Ongpin lecture at Ateneo tomorrow

THE FIRST Jaime V. Ongpin Memorial Lecture on Public Service in bu siness and government is slated tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at the Veritas Room and Moot Court of the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Campus in Makati City.

Prof. Randolf S. David, INQUIRER columnist, television commentator and professor of sociology at the University of the Philippines, will lecture on the topic "Philippine Society and the Challenge of Modernity," a sociological reflection on the problems that the Filipino people have had to face in the transition to modernity. A distinguished panel of reactors include Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, president and CEO of Ayala Corp., respected journalist and writer Amando Doronila of the INQUIRER and Maria Gonzales Goolsby, specialist in human resource development and consultant in business, industry and government. Moderator for the lecture is Ms Melinda Quintos de Jesus, executive director for the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

The lecture aims to keep alive the spirit with which Mr. Jaime V. Ongpin lived his life—the willingness to risk comfort and safety, wealth and personal safety for the sake of freedom and democracy. It is designed to help business and government leaders to reflect on the national situation and to live out this spirit of total service to people and country.

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# 'Little President' grilled over abusive escorts

(From page A1)

The complainant, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, narrated during yesterday's session at the House how such a convoy cut and sideswiped motorists on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Failon said he was on his way to the Batasang Pambansa complex for the 1 p.m. session when he encountered the convoy—a Starex van and its backup L300 van, with two motorcycle cops belonging to the Traffic Management Group as escorts—proceeding at a fast clip.

Traffic was light, he said, and his vehicle was "casually" traversing the middle lane when it was cut by one of the cops.

He said this cop "struck" the front of his vehicle four times, while the other swept the other motorists to the rightmost lane to pave the way for the convoy.

Failon said he would have just ignored the incident except that he saw a cop smash the side mirror of a vehicle along the way.

He said he told his driver to follow the convoy, which turned right before the new Sandiganbayan building, validating his suspicion that the VIP being escorted was going to the House.

The convoy stopped at the House lobby, Failon said, and Romulo alighted from the Starex van.

He said Romulo's vehicle had a plate number but that the backup L300 van had none.

Romulo was in the House to attend the plenary deliberations for the budget of the Office of the President.

During the session, Failon said he spoke with Romulo about the incident.

"I think he does not know" about the abusive behavior of his escorts, said Failon, a former broadcast personality.

Still, Failon said, occasionally raising his voice, he was "sick and tired of these abusive backups."

"Ironically, they are here to ask us to approve their budget so that they can pay more abusive people," he said.

Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya interpellated Failon to point out that as alter ego of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Romulo was entitled to security escorts.

Abaya also noted that Romulo was the "humblest and most approachable member of the Cabinet"—a point to which Failon conceded.

Nevertheless, Failon said, the "issue" was not Romulo but "the show of abuse by people escorting" him.

Abaya said that some members of the House were also committing abuse because some of them were using the protocol plate No. 8 without displaying their respective districts on the plate.

"Since you called the attention of a senior member of the Cabinet, we should likewise do our own housecleaning," Abaya said.

After several interpellations, Failon's gripe was supposed to have died a natural death.

But hours later, when the reason for Romulo's visit was called for plenary deliberations, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen resurrected the issue against the executive secretary.

"If this is the budget of the Office of the President (on the menu), is the President of the republic present?" Dilangalen said, eliciting laughter from the gallery.

The House has made it a rule to require the presence of heads of agencies in the session hall when their respective budgets are being tackled.

The President is, of course, exempted from the rule, and Dilangalen was told that Romulo was representing her.

"Is this the same Romulo who was involved in the incident this afternoon?" Dilangalen said.

According to Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee which sponsors the budget bill, Romulo "offered no excuses" for the incident and promised to conduct an investigation.

The INQUIRER contacted an aide of Romulo's last night but the aide had not responded as of press time.

# Congress . . .

(From page A1)

the list of pork barrel projects senators and congressmen had identified for funding.

"This will become a regular activity of the department," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said in an interview over dzRH.

The DBM is set to release this week a total P7.7 billion in pork barrel, which has been renamed Priority Development Assistance Projects (PDAP). It was previously called the Countrywide Development Fund.

For this year, each of the 24 senators can identify projects worth P100 million. Eleven senators whose terms overlapped the 11th and 12th Congresses and five reelectionist senators will get another P100 million.

In the House of Representatives, each of the 212 members, including partylist representatives, will get P25 million, the balance of their one-year allocation of P50 million.

Boncodin had earlier said that the funds represented the second tranche of the lawmakers' PDAP.

"Once we release the second tranche . . . we will post it on the Web," she said.

The budget secretary said she had instructed DBM regional, provincial and municipal offices to come up with lists of pork barrel projects within their respective jurisdictions for the public to see.

The projects that can be funded by the PDAP include roads, bridges, hospitals and day care centers, according to the DBM.

It has disallowed basketball courts and waiting sheds.

Boncodin said a non-government organization was helping the DBM monitor how lawmakers were implementing their pork barrel projects.

Ma. Isabel de Leon, a Palace spokesperson, identified the NGO as the Anti-Graft Watch.

"The DBM, however, is looking for appropriate NGOs which will comprise a Budget Advocacy Group for this particular purpose," De Leon said.

She clarified that the DBM was still putting up a website dedicated to PDAP projects.

De Leon said the DBM would announce the date when the public could start accessing it.

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Many years ago, I was working on the use of the Bain Breathing System, a new circuit for general anesthesia. During one prolonged anesthetic for a neurosurgical patient, the fresh gas inner tube of the system got disconnected, rebreathing and accumulation of carbon dioxide confirmed by arterial blood gas measurement ensued. I spoke about the problem of the system to colleagues but did not write my findings. Six months later, a case report came out in a refereed journal describing a case that except for the fact that it happened in Canada, appeared to be my own case.

The ease that information technology offers in terms of gathering evidence for certain subjects, encourages me to review literature in anesthesiology very frequently. Refereed journals now have Chinese, Indian, Thai and other Asian authors. What is evident is the austere appearance of Filipino names.

I wondered about this. We have many things going for us. English is our second language. There are many patients with peculiar problems the world can learn from. I am sure there are many unanswered questions in our minds. We have embarked on studies in order to reach answers to these questions. So why the reluctance to write and publish? I am sure there are many things we can share with our more affluent colleagues overseas.

I believe it is time to seek our global niche.

To our diplomates, let me challenge you to find this niche!

Congratulations on your conferment.

Merle G de la Cruz-Odi
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To the new diplomates of the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology, congratulations. Another group of young aspiring anesthesiologists to be sworn in and henceforth will sign documents with the initials, D.P.B.A., appended to their names. Four letters that make you different from other practitioners of anesthesiology, have you ever thought of what makes the difference? A diplomate of the PBA, is an anesthesiologist who has spent time and effort to finish a minimum of three years of accredited training program, be able to fulfill all the academic and clinical requirements of the training institution and the Board. In fulfilling these requirements you have qualified to take and pass all the three phases of a certifying examination that all of you has successfully hurdled. This is not the end of a pursuit because, from now on you have obligations to maintain and preserve the prestige of this title.

The diplomate has now evolved as; an academician, a trainor, the most qualified to head the department, the arbiter, the resource person, a leader in the specialty. Let us all keep up to these expectations, and maintain these pride and respect among our colleagues in the different specialties.

A DIPLOMATE IS ALWAYS OUTSTANDING.

LUDIVINO G. DE GUZMAN, MD, DPBA
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# Gloria recalls recall of death penalty commutation

By D. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday withdrew her order to nullify the commutation of the death sentence of six kidnappers after she was told by her justice secretary that the order is illegal.

Five days after she gave the order, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez informed the President during the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday that she cannot reverse the commutation granted by her predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

Perez submitted a legal opinion that commutations cannot be recalled unless for a justifiable reason, like where there was fraud on the part of the convict.

This happened in the case of convicted priest-killer Norberto Manero Jr., whose pardon was revoked by Estrada because he has another prior murder conviction.

"The President is accepting her justice secretary's opinion and she will abide by it," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao announced afterwards.

In a news conference on Thursday, the President ordered the DOJ to recall Estrada's commutation of the death sentence of six kidnappers.

Earlier she made a policy turnaround and decided to implement the death penalty against kidnappers to assure Filipino-Chinese officials her government will stop the spate of kidnappings.

The lawyers' group Free Legal Assistance Group, however, warned that the President's order is tantamount to a violation of the Constitution, a ground for impeachment, they said.

The events yesterday confirmed reports that Ms Macapagal did not consult the DOJ before making the announcement.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal is still determined to implement the death penalty despite the opposition of the Catholic Church.

But she will take a second look at "humanitarian" concerns raised by pro-life groups, he said.

The Catholic Church said a 17-year-old was among the convicted kidnappers on death row.

"The President, together with her legal advisers, will of course taken into consideration such humanitarian concern. But the broad policy is the state will carry out the execution of kidnappers convicted by the courts and affirmed by the Supreme Court," he said.

At the height of the "juetengate" controversy, Estrada declared a moratorium against execution. He also commuted to reclusion perpetua the death sentence of six kidnappers, including the kidnapper of La Salle student Agnes Guirindola.

Contrary to a report that came out in the INQ7 webpage, Guirindola is alive. She was left for dead by her kidnappers but she survived.

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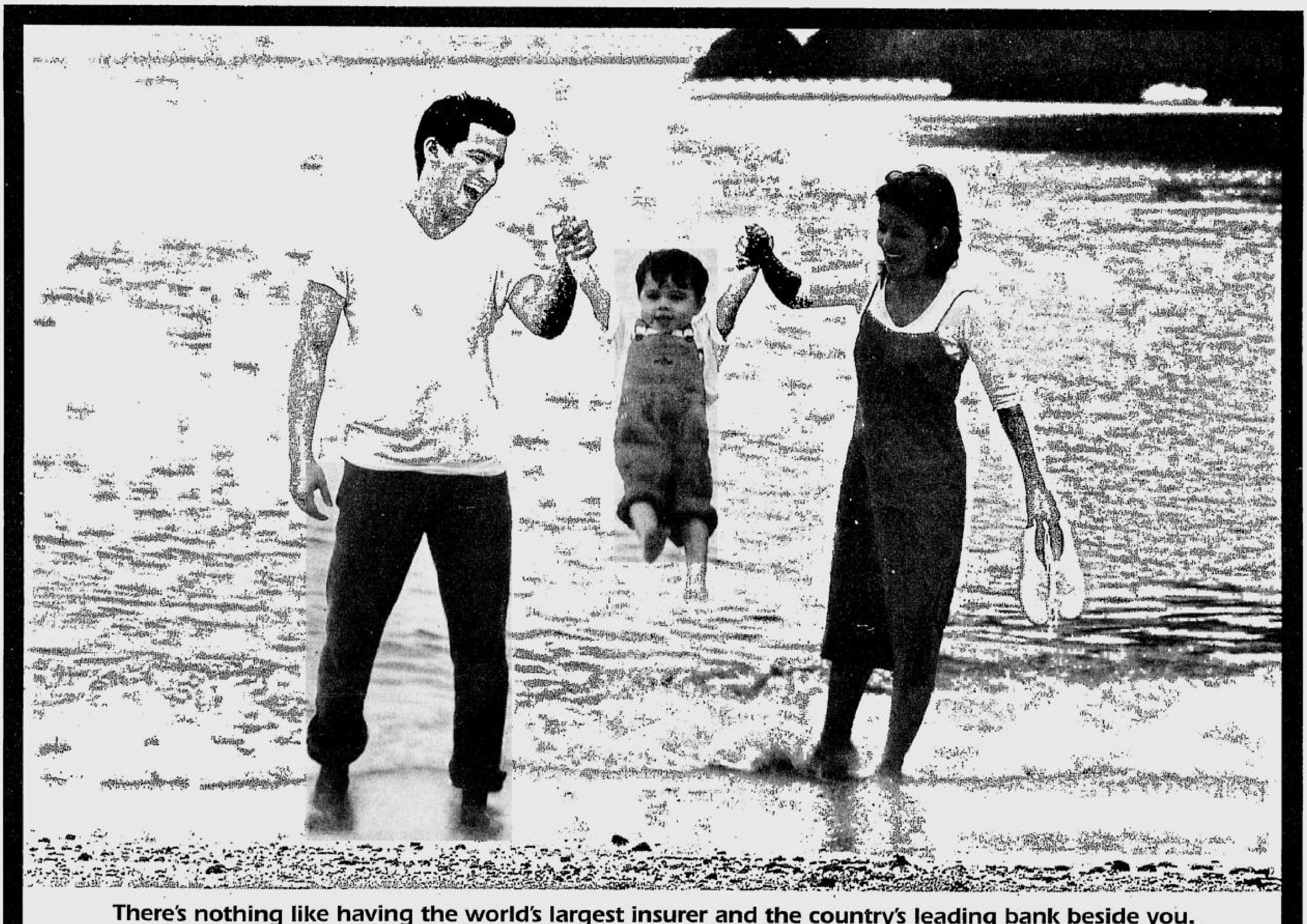

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# OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

*Vol. 16 No. 318*
*ISSN 0116-2642*

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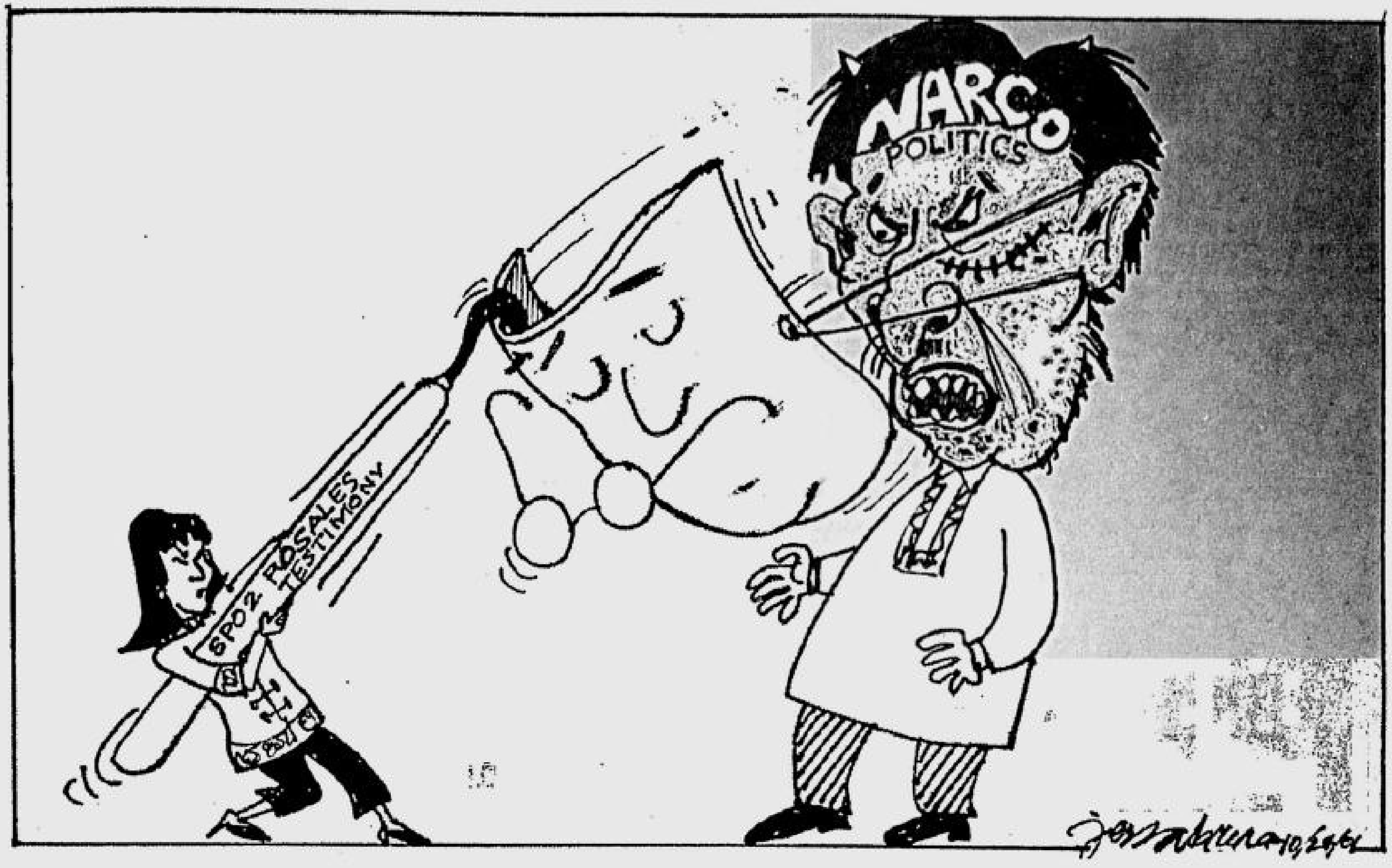


## The end?

**EDITORIAL**

FINALLY, government troops in Basilan and Sulu are doing what they have been trained—and are being paid—to do, which is to fight. Over a period of two weeks this month, they have killed a total of 62 members of the Abu Sayyaf, the bandit group that cloaks its rapacity and cruelty with Muslim fundamentalism and separatism. In the biggest encounter so far, Army troopers killed 21 Abu Sayyaf members and wounded an equal number in Isabela, Basilan, last Oct. 7. A second big clash in Lantawan, Isabela, last Oct. 13 resulted in the death of 15 members of the group that continues to hold hostage two Americans and nine Filipinos. Then two separate encounters last Sunday saw 18 Abu Sayyaf members killed in Talipao, Sulu, and eight in Lantawan, Basilan. In all these clashes, the military reported only a single death.

How did the Armed Forces do it? The recent military successes were "a result of the learning curve," according to AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan. "It shows that our troops are getting better and more familiar with the terrain, while the enemy is getting weaker." He also said that the military has been getting more cooperation from the civilians in Basilan. There have been reports that the troops are going to battle better equipped as a result of some help they have been getting from the United States. Top government officials also cite the change in leadership on the ground as another major factor that has contributed to the recent military successes.

Whatever the reason or reasons, there can be little doubt that the Abu Sayyaf is hurting from the sharp reverses it has been suffering lately. Joel Guillo, one of the hostages who managed to escape recently, said the rebel force guarding the hostages has gone down from at least 150 in May, following the raid on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, to about 110 after the Oct. 7 gun battle. Earlier, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the Abu Sayyaf was down to 850 men from about 1,200 before the military offensive, and the number was "decreasing every day."

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the AFP Southern Command, has described the Abu Sayyaf now as "very, very weak, lacking sleep, without food and medicine and always on the run." And Golez seems to smell victory. Before the month is over, he predicted, the military will deliver a decisive blow against the rebel band. "We are seeing the start of the end," he said. "Let's pray it will be quick."

The whole nation hopes Golez is right. But we have been there before. In Lamitan, last June, the military boasted that they had the main enemy force surrounded in a hospital compound. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo then said it would take just one more bullet to finish them off. But the following day, the Abu Sayyaf simply strolled their way to safety with most of their hostages in tow, as government troops failed to secure the path leading from the hospital compound to the thick jungle behind it.

Now, if the government's assessment is correct, the troops are in the same vantage position where they can practically dictate the conduct of the war and how it is going to end. If they lose this one again, they can blame nothing and no one but themselves.

This time they better finish the job. It's the only way they can redeem themselves from the embarrassing and disgraceful debacle of that siege in Lamitan.

## Living in fear

**FOREIGN COMMENT**

NEWS that an anthrax-contaminated letter was sent to the office of the Senate majority leader, coupled with reports that the child of an ABC News employee had contracted the disease, cranked public anxiety a notch higher Monday night.

But a healthy dose of perspective is in order, along with reasonable doses of caution and prudence.

In short, don't worry about "you may already be a winner" junk mail. And don't lay in a supply of antibiotics to self-administer after a paranoid self-diagnosis of anthrax. The drugs are not going to be in short supply, according to officials. They do have side effects and shouldn't be taken except under a doctor's supervision after a medical diagnosis.

Judging by the currently known cases, postal employees and mailroom workers are the most likely to be exposed and the first line of defense. Training in what to look for, how to handle suspicious mail and general precautions will go a long way toward blunting this new threat.

The rest of us would do well to keep caution this side of paranoia. Until further information emerges, we cannot let a few cases of anthrax lead us to live in fear of every unopened letter.

*Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, New Mexico)*

## GMA bet IN ARMM polls not a Filipino citizen?

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

ELECTIONS in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are scheduled to be held on Nov. 26—unless they are postponed again (it has been postponed three times already)—but there is something peculiar about the candidates for governor. The polls will be held in Mindanao but the serious candidates are campaigning in Metro Manila. Macapanton Abbas Jr. has been making the rounds of the forums in the metropolis; he was at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) last Monday and at the Kapihan sa Sulo in Quezon City for the last two Saturdays. Banana tycoon Toto Paglas and his gang were at Starbucks Café on West Avenue last Friday, accompanied by former Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon, to talk to a group of Metro journalists. The voters are in Mindanao, but why are they campaigning here?

Even stranger, the announced administration candidate, Farouk Hussein, is said to be a Swedish citizen, not a Filipino. He admits to carrying a Swedish passport, so he cannot be a Filipino because the Philippines does not allow dual citizenship. Hussein has not lived here for the last five years and therefore falls short of the law's requirement for governorship of the ARMM. He is here alone; his Serbian wife and children are still in Sweden.

So why did Malacañang choose him to be the administration's official candidate? Because he is the choice of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Malacañang said. Are we now allowing foreign countries to choose candidates for positions in our own government? We protest against US planes refueling in former US bases in the Philippines but here is Malacañang letting a group of foreign countries choose the administration candidate for the top position in the ARMM. We protest President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's expression of support for the war against terrorism by the United Nations, of which we are a member, but there is not a peep of protest against dictation by the OIC, of which we are not a member.

Perhaps an implied admission that this is meddling in our internal affairs, the OIC is silent on its alleged preference for Hussein. There is neither confirmation nor denial of Malacañang's statement. This could be an indication, his rivals claim, that Hussein has not really been endorsed by the OIC. Maybe Hussein is falsely claiming that. Only one Muslim ambassador, they said, has spoken in his favor. None from the others. So why does Malacañang or the Department of Foreign Affairs not check with the OIC itself? they ask.

But are we now actually inviting foreign countries to tell us who should be candidates for Philippine government positions? Are we also under the thumb of the OIC besides being under the thumb of the United States? Are we an independent nation still? Have we ever been independent at all?

* * *

**Anyway, all the candidates want the ARMM elections to be truly independent. They want Malacañang not to meddle in it. All right, it has named its official candidate, that's enough. Make the elections free and fair. Let the ARMM voters choose their officials freely, without any influence from the administration. All they ask is an even playing field. Otherwise, there would be no free elections, they said.**

**Besides, all the officials chosen by past administrations to run the Muslim regional government were failures. President Aquino chose Pangandaman and President Ramos chose Misuari. Both were unmitigated disasters. Now President Macapagal wants to repeat the mistake with an alleged Swede.**

**But the elections may be postponed again, after all. There are a number of petitions pending in the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the coming polls. There are so many laws on the ARMM and the polls that their provisions are contradictory. The high court, moving in its usual snail's pace, has not yet resolved these contradictions. And there is barely a month left before the elections. The Commission on Elections itself favors postponing it.**

**But it has been postponed so many times already. Should it be postponed once more?**

* * *

Water is scarce at the Pagasa Bliss units behind SM North Edsa. Residents have asked Manila Water to connect them to bigger pipes. The water concessionaire has begun to do that but SM refuses to let it dig and lay pipes along the street running from Edsa to Pagasa, between the main and annex buildings. This is the street that services the Quezon City High School, Golden Acres, the military camp and Pagasa. SM claims the street belongs to it.

How come? That street has been there long before SM bought the adjoining property. How did it become the property of SM? Did the Quezon City government sell it to SM? Public streets are beyond the commerce of man and cannot be sold. If it was sold to SM, who was the mayor who sold it? Isn't this prohibited and penalized by the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act?

Will Mayor Feliciano Belmonte kindly look into this and file the necessary charges if warranted?

Who really owns that street going to Pagasa? Will the mayor please enlighten his constituents?

* * *

*Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph*

## Reminders

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

AS expected, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation endorsed the need for a global effort to fight terrorism, but refused to endorse the American military campaign in Afghanistan. Which is a pretty accurate reflection of the way most people think about the events of the last two months. The attack on the World Trade Center was a condemnable act, and one that calls on all civilized nations, or those who claim to be so, to act to punish the perpetrators. But the bombing of Afghanistan is just as condemnable, compelling as it does a whole people to pay for the sins of their leaders. And wreaking even more mayhem than the crime it seeks justice for.

What I cannot understand, however, is why the foreign wires keep attributing the Apec's decision not to back the American military initiative as consideration for the sensibilities of the Indonesia and Malaysia, whose populations are largely Muslims. You have the leaders of a couple of dozen countries, some of whom represent the most powerful countries in the world, and they are unable to rally a vital organization behind a morally compelling project because of the sensibilities of a couple of Southeast Asian countries? What craziness is that?

The Apec—which is by no means a radical organization, it is almost fundamentalist in its conservatism—clearly decided that way because most of its leaders could not find their way to defending the moral righteousness of waging war on an entire country just to punish a few criminals. It has little to do with the sensibilities of the Muslim members of Apec. Indeed, if the Apec had given in to the sensibilities of Indonesia and Malaysia, it would have issued a condemnation as well of the bombing of Afghanistan along with that of the attack on New York, as Megawati and Mahathir had been suggesting.

But while at this, I don't know why we in particular should not be showing exceptional sensitivity to Muslim sensibilities. We not only have a substantial Muslim population of our own but a great many of our compatriots are working in Malaysia, if not Indonesia, and various Muslim countries in the Middle East.

There is no question about the need for a global effort to fight terrorism. That is the categorical imperative of the day. But there is every question about how to do it. The Apec is right to send the message that that is not something the United States may rule by itself, and merely bring others to share its decree. It's not only the Muslim countries that may not agree to a definition of terrorist as anyone America calls so, and terrorism as anything America denigrates as so. It's not only the Muslim countries that may not agree to a definition of fighting terrorism as any action America calls so, and any mayhem America elevates as so.

Certainly, the systematic violence being done to the Afghan people—a fact that has become inescapable with powerful images of the devastation not just of military targets but of civilian homes—cannot qualify as fighting terrorism. The victims aren't just those who have been at the receiving end of the bombs, though images of that have rightly stirred restiveness around the world, it's also, and primarily so, the refugees that have been crowding the Pakistani and Iranian borders. There are now two and a half million in the Pakistani border alone, as more and more people flee their homes in the wake of the bombings. The challenge of having to feed them has become a nightmare for the aid-giving agencies.

All of them have called for a halt to the American bombing of Afghanistan to allow them to bring food and medicine to those in need of them. Preferably before the Afghan winter sets in, whose effects are bound to be catastrophic. No one wants to risk being caught in "friendly fire," particularly in light of a Red Cross clinic having been blasted to pieces after being mistaken for an arms depot. But President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair have refused, saying the lull in the bombings would allow the Taliban to recover.

I was bowled over last week when Bush told the Apec that the Taliban had lost all vestige of moral authority to lead because it was responsible for the current plight of the refugees. Apparently, the Taliban was hijacking the food and medicine supplies that should go to its own people. Maybe so, but I don't know if anyone reminded Bush that the Taliban was not bombing Afghanistan, he was.

Nor has it helped that the coalition leaders seem to take the loss of Afghan lives lightly. Only a couple of days ago, another US bomb killed eight women and children in Kabul. Casualties were regrettable, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said last week when shown photos of them, but inevitable in any conflict. "There is no question that I and anyone else involved regret this unintentional loss of lives." Well, that doesn't come across as rueful, that comes across as cynical. Especially when set against Bush's grief-stricken words over the deaths of two American pilots. "They have not died in vain," he said. Yes, but what about those who did in the bombings?

There may be a difference between a hijacker who aims a plane at a building full of civilians while shouting "Allah be praised," and at a bureaucrat who directs a plane to a target that may have civilians while muttering, "Sorry *na lang* to whom it may not concern," but it is a very thin one. It is certainly not a moral glue that can hold together a fragile unity convoked to rid this world of injustice. The fire that claims the lives of Afghan children at play is no more friendly than the one that claims those of New Yorkers at work. And the tears that fall on the faces of their mothers are no less copious than the ones that fall on the faces of the kin of the dead in America, even if there is no camera to capture them.

The Apec is right to apprise Bush of these things. Then and now, you cannot end terror by the ways of terror.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com*

# The 'quid' for the 'quo'

ANALYSIS

*Amando Doronila*

AMONG the 21 Asia Pacific Rim countries that attended the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shanghai, the Philippines stood out with its maximalist support of the United States-led international coalition's war on terror.

In their final statement, the Apec leaders condemned in strong language the terrorist attacks on the United States as "murderous deeds" but stopped short of endorsing the US-British attacks on Afghanistan. The asymmetrical statement, which disappointed President George W. Bush, who had sought backing for the strikes on the Taliban, was more as a deference to Malaysia and Indonesia, the two Islamic countries in Apec which have called for a halt to the attacks.

Most of the Apec countries wanted to be more flexible in their response to the war on international terrorism. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo locked the Philippines into a box of policy statement approaching the Nato's policy, under Article 5 of the Nato treaty, that an attack on one member is an attack on all.

The Philippines was one of the first countries in Asia to back the American-led international coalition with a policy that bared everything and hid nothing. The policy was a masterpiece of lack of subtlety and the best metaphor to describe it is that the President is like a strip-tease artist who undressed and revealed all in one stroke, leaving nothing to the imagination.

Her 14 pillars of policy and action to combat terror highlighted measures that matched those of the US Nato allies without the military and economic resources Nato members are capable of supporting their solidarity with the US multi-faceted war on terrorism. The main pillars of her policy are:

(1) to work closely with Americans on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism; (2) make available Philippine air space and facilities—including Clark and Subic—to US forces transiting to the theater of military action; (3) provide combat troops, if asked, under the auspices of the United Nations; and (4) choke the flow of funds of terrorist groups through the enactment of the anti-money laundering law.

On the aspect of intelligence exchange, there's no doubt that it is mutually useful, but we have to bear in mind that the flow of the exchange of intelligence among the United States and its European allies—notably Russia, France, Germany and Britain—is not that smooth. Intelligence services of these countries—both domestic and international—are saddled with rivalries and suspicions, and there's a lot of withholding of information going on.

The Philippines could be feeding this international exchange with information about the Abu Sayyaf, given that a State Department official has said that the Philippines is a hub of the terrorist network in Asia, but whether we are getting as much information we need to combat the Abu Sayyaf is anybody's guess. What I'm saying is parity in the exchange of information, since such information can also improve our capacity to protect ourselves from terrorist attacks in possible retaliation for the US attacks on the Taliban.

The second aspect of information exchange is over the movement of laundered money financing terrorist activities that have been traced to networks uncovered in several European countries, including Germany, France, Spain and even Britain. We have passed the anti-laundering law primarily to ward off sanctions by the Paris-based organization working for global cooperation to choke movement of dirty money, and the legislation has come in handy in squeezing the financial arteries of terrorists' money.

The anti-laundering law is useful to us to track money derived from drug trafficking whose network is regional in scope. In our experience with the allegations by the military and police intelligence services that Sen. Panfilo Lacson is linked to money laundering, cooperation by the US Justice Department and the FBI to requests for opening their files of hidden bank accounts has not been forthcoming. Money laundering has now a wider scope, in the wake of the war on the financial network of the terrorists.

Before the Philippines could be an effective link in the global war on terrorism, its capacity to implement President Macapagal's policy has to be improved. The capacity of the Armed Forces to fight the Abu Sayyaf with better firepower and more efficient technology requires improvement, and the arrival here of a team of American military advisers with expertise in special forces fighting can only be explained as a step toward this direction.

The early commitment by President Macapagal to back the US-led war on terror has made a clear impact on the United States at a time when it was building an international coalition. It was well received by President Bush who needs to maintain the coalition that can be frayed as more countries, mainly Islamic, condemn the attacks on Afghanistan, and as more of the US allies keeping a distance from its military action.

If we examine which forces are now attacking Afghanistan, the attack force is less of an international army than the coalition that invaded Iraq in the Gulf War. The brunt of the attack is carried out by American and British forces. Canada and Australia have deployed naval vessels, aircraft and troops to help the land operations in Afghanistan. Germany, France and other Nato allies have committed troops and logistical support.

In Asia, none has contributed troops—not yet so far. President Macapagal's enthusiasm to make the Philippines join the war effort is no less than that of America's Nato allies, but that's the most we can do, except giving access to US forces and troops in transit.

When the United States needed most the manifestation of support, the President gave it. But since the Philippines is already on the United States' side, the President should be asked what she is doing to let the United States equip us with the capacity to be an effective partner of the coalition, if not to combat our home-grown terrorists, to protect ourselves from retaliation.

# In the interest of transparency

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

"THIS goes beyond Napocor and GSIS. In fact, even after I leave government service, I think I will take it up as my own private crusade," says National Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo.

What's got this otherwise mild-mannered energy executive so worked up? Those of you who make a habit of checking out opinion columns in the dailies must be aware of the see-saw of views on the issue of the Napocor's insurance that, by law, is handled by the Government Service Insurance System. But while previous Napocor officials went along with the way the GSIS handled its insurance needs, Alcordo has questioned not just the way the GSIS has dealt with the power agency in its insurance concerns, but the wisdom of giving the GSIS sole discretion over insuring government assets.

"Ask anybody in the insurance business, and they will tell you that billions are being made both over and under the table," says Alcordo.

What he and the board of Napocor want, says Alcordo, is not to take away the power of the GSIS to insure its assets, which is mandated by law, but for GSIS officials to be more transparent and consultative in its dealings with them. At the very least, he says, the GSIS should keep officials of government corporations like them in the loop when working out terms with brokers and reinsurers.

Though the law requires that the GSIS insure the assets of government agencies and corporations, in actual practice, the GSIS insures a mere 5 percent of total coverage and passes on the remaining 95 percent to brokers (such as Jardine and Marsh in the Napocor's case) which turn passes on the business to several reinsurers.

* * *

**AS Alcordo tells it, they would not have had occasion to look into the way the GSIS handles the Napocor's insurance coverage were they not under orders to search for ways to reduce deficit and improve the corporation's financial standing. Thus he ordered his people to look through their books and search for ways to improve the bottom line.**

**"That was how we discovered that though we had gross claims from the GSIS of $41 million, which was later reduced to between $21-22 million, the GSIS had given the Napocor only $1.6 million. As a result, the Napocor has had to spend its own money for repairs of plants and grids totaling $77 million."**

**Investigating further, Alcordo found that in the last five years or more, every time the Napocor would ask for payment from the GSIS after a damage claim, the GSIS and its seven reinsurers would give Napocor officials the "runaround." "They would demand for document after document. After we came up with one document, they would require another."**

**One other thing they found out was that the Napocor had paid the GSIS last year $13.5 million for an industrial all-risk (IAR) policy good for 18 months. But the documents they received indicated that only $5 million was paid in premium. Where did the $8.5 million go?**

* * *

FOR THESE and other reasons, Alcordo and the Napocor board suspended negotiations with the GSIS when its insurance policy expired, demanding that the Napocor be included in the bidding process.

This was when the media campaign against Alcordo and the Napocor began. "They were the ones who first went public with this, not me," Alcordo points out.

Supported by Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Alcordo succeeded in having the bidding process revised, which is now going to be overseen by a committee that includes Napocor executives. Alcordo, however, is still skeptical of the results, reasoning that "since the GSIS people have been in insurance for so long, they can run circles around whoever we send to sit on the committee."

He is appealing to legislators instead to review the law requiring all government assets to be insured by the GSIS. An alternative he proposes is that, following the system adopted by Petron after its privatization, where a subsidiary of a GOCC would be put up to take care of all its reinsurance needs, though the main insurer would still be the GSIS.

* * *

**MEANWHILE, in the interest of transparency, the Napocor is the first GOCC to operationalize an electronic bidding system, initially for its coal requirements but intended eventually for all its supply, inventory and asset disposal requirements.**

**Under this system, technically qualified and accredited bidders may start joining the bidding after being given identification using fingerprint technology, a confidential user name and a password, the information to be stored by servers in the Napocor "bidding room." Bidders will enter their bids on the computer assigned to them, after which the computer will immediately rank them from the lowest to the highest, the information automatically flashed on the computer monitors of the participating bidders. A winner is declared when the lowest price has been tendered.**

**Such a process allows for full transparency, letting bidders to place bids on the computer themselves and to determine the bids of their competitors immediately. The identities of the bidders are not known among themselves for the duration of the bidding, a protection against collusion. The public is free to view the bidding procedures through a large screen.**

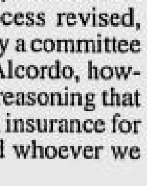
**The use of technology also skirts the possibility of human interference and of possible cheating, as is still possible under the current system of sealed bids.**

**Eventually, says the Napocor, they hope to shift the present e-bidding system into Internet-based bidding or electronic procurement, as what the Department of National Defense, under the leadership of former Secretary Orly Mercado, has already adopted. Even local governments are looking into using the new technology for their own procurements and transactions.**

**The Internet may not yet solve the problems of the world, but it certainly makes for a more transparent bureaucracy.**

# Street vendors in old Manila

LOOKING BACK



*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

STREET vendors are people we see every day, but we hardly notice them unless they are selling something oversized (beds), or cute (a Sto. Niño in full costume), or they arrive in an ox-cart filled with chairs, hammocks and other handicrafts. As the malls slowly become part of life in the 21st century, vendors become scarce as antiques. Street vendors are still to be found in some parts of town but totally absent in more affluent parts, a casualty of changes in the lifestyle and livelihood of the Gen X.

When I show my students photographs and watercolors of old Manila, a lot of that old world is alien to them. I ask them to guess what the vendors are selling and while they can identify fruits, vegetables, fowl, etc. smokers are surprised that *tinderas* sold tobacco in *bilaos* to be cut up and rolled by the buyer. Today, cigars and cigarettes are bought ready to smoke. In an age of lighters where matches are close to Jurassic, they find it hard to imagine a *sulpakan* or Philippine lighter in use in the 19th century. When I ask why most of the vendors photographed are women, they reply (correctly) that the photographers were male and immortalized partially the extremes of beauty or ugliness. Male vendors are photographed because they sold water or milk in a distinctive container—these look like big *upo* carved out and dried.

Another vanishing trade are ear cleaners—usually Chinese—photographed at work in old Manila. However, the photograph I would most want to see are those of snake vendors who are mentioned in travel accounts written at the turn of the last century. Pythons or *sawa* were sold on the streets in an age that was environment-friendly. Rats were a common household pest but people did not use poison on them because if they died in some hidden nook they would stink up the house. Mousetraps were not popular either because these, more often then not, broke the little fingers of curious children. I know, from experience, what a mousetrap feels like. Cats were not a viable option either because they reproduced so quickly they later became a problem rather than a solution.

Foreigners describe how a live snake was chosen from an assortment coiled on a long bamboo pole carried by a vendor. The python was let loose in the ceiling where it needed no batteries. Up in a ceiling the python fed on rats and slept most of the time. With a python one was rodent-free, though most foreigners who could hear it moving about often worried that it might come down for a snack while they were asleep in bed.

In 1924, Russian violinist Mishel Piastro made headlines in New York due to a performance at the Manila Grand Opera House. It was not so much the quality of his performance that made the news but that his appreciative audience included two diamond-back boa constrictors. The newspaper account reported that two-thirds into the program, while Piastro was playing Grieg's "Lonely Wanderer," a woman in the audience screamed. A snake was facing the empty orchestra pit swaying to the music as it would in front of an Indian snake charmer. Unfazed, Piastro continued playing as firemen entered the building, beat the poor snake to death with axes and carried it off. So the concert continued and while Piastro was in the middle of "Spanish Serenade," another woman screamed because another snake was in the aisle. This time Piastro paused one measure, and continued playing till the firemen came in again and repeated what was done to snake No. 1. After the performance he was quoted as saying:

"I knew when I saw each creature just below my feet in the aisle, that the safety of thousands depended on my keeping any suggestion of change from the sort of music that drew them in. The soft winding notes were soothing. If I stopped suddenly, or if more stimulating sounds had taken their place, the creatures would have been frightened. They might have attacked the people on either side of the aisle, with damage and loss of life."

Of course, I don't believe this news item. How can thousands fit in the Manila Grand Opera House? Pythons are not aggressive or social enough to spend a night in a full theater. Piastro was a publicity hound who had accomplices bring the snakes in a bag and let them out during the concert.

In one of my classes, one group did a presentation on the pre-colonial Philippines. At one point, during what was a religious ceremony, a girl in the back of the room started to scream. I thought it was part of the report. When another girl shouted more hysterically than the first, I wanted to give the group a good grade for eliciting audience participation. I was to find out later that a 15-foot python was brought into the room as part of the report! To my horror I was told a few days later that the snake was put in a gym bag and deposited in the air-conditioned university library for the rest of the day!

Many Filipinos harbor a fear of snakes and I find it amusing that something brought out of the wild can be domesticated in colonial Philippines and used as a rat-catcher and today be treated as a pet. The way we look at snakes changes over time as we do as a people.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

# Filipino seafarers need more priests and support

COMMENTARY

*Jeremaiah M. Opiniano*
Institute on Church and Social Issues

SEAFARERS are among the most disadvantaged of overseas Filipino workers, despite the fact that the country is the world's largest supplier of merchant marine crew. These brave workers endure their difficult work, tolerate all possible abuses by employers and go through numerous emotional struggles brought about by being away from their families. The Filipino seafarers' travails are well-documented. Many times Filipinos are prone to being victimized by abusive foreign shipowners and Philippine-based manning agents. Contracts are manipulated, complaining seamen are blacklisted and liability over accidents are avoided by shipowners.

Yet government consistently looks at our seamen through the glitter of money. But has it keenly looked at the welfare of these sea-based OFWs?

Filipino seafarers can proudly say that they have endured these travails because of their positive attitudes. This is why Filipinos are continually being recruited by, for example, European shipowners.

Because of their "extraordinary" efforts, the seamen are the nation's pride, said Maasin, Leyte Bishop Precioso Cantillas in his homily during the sixth National Seafarers' Day (NSD) celebration at the Quirino Grandstand. But there is more beyond this message that needs to be addressed.

The Apostleship of the Sea, of which Bishop Cantillas is the Philippine episcopal promoter, is the Catholic Church's front-running group in providing pastoral care to seafarers. In the country, AOS chaplaincies are situated in Davao, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Maasin, Leyte; San Fernando, La Union and Manila. But only two of them, Cebu and Davao, can be technically called Stella Maris centers, says Davao chaplain and Maryknoll Fr. Jack Walsh.

Walsh, who has dedicated most of his pastoral life to seafarers and their families, wonders why the country, the world's largest supplier of merchant crew, has the least number of clergy and religious for the apostolate. Presently, AOS Philippines only has seven priests, three sisters and one brother, plus Cantillas as the episcopal promoter.

"Three are (also) diocesan priests (who are) already burdened with parish and diocesan responsibilities. One is a layman but is not supported financially by his bishop. The three who are full-time chaplains are members of foreign mission societies," Walsh wrote in an e-mail message.

Bishop Cantillas' message was heard by President Macapagal herself, guest speaker during the NSD celebration. While indirectly Cantillas' message called on the government to oversee the working conditions and help protect the rights of our seafarers, the bishop is also calling for more pastoral help and support.

The oversight of over 200,000 seafarers by only 12 full-fledged Catholic pastoral workers is an enormous challenge facing AOS Philippines. The message calling for help, Walsh said, was forwarded to the other bishops under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)—in the hope that the CBCP, led by president and Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, will hear their plea.

But while waiting for that episcopal response, Catholics and Christians are called to provide any help to these Filipino seafarers. It is encouraging to note that in Manila alone, there is an ecumenical network of chaplaincies and seamen's Church groups: the AOS, the Seamen's Christian Friend Society (Evangelical Church), the British and International Sailors' Society (Lutheran), the Seafarers Mission Center (Aglipayan Church), and the chaplaincies of the United Methodist Church and the Reformed Christian Church.

More help is nevertheless needed not just for AOS and the other Christian seafarers' groups. Seafarers need prayer materials such as Bibles, rosaries, prayer books and character formation handouts. I remember maritime teacher Bienvenido Maranan who, together with six other Filipino crewmen, joined Muslim seafarers from South Asia and Africa in an ecumenical prayer service.

The inter-ethnic crew prayer asked God to take care of their families. Maranan, who was one of the outstanding Filipino seafarers last year, gave crewmates Bibles from the Philippines. He also regularly leads the praying of the "Apostles' Creed" with fellow Filipino crewmates.

More heroic are the life-risking efforts of Filipinos to save drowning crewmen. AOS Manila chaplain Fr. Savino Bernardi, CS, in a column for Tinig ng Marino, wrote that Captain R. Alcantara and his full 24-man Filipino crew saved 12 Ukrainenan seafarers from the ill-fated M/T Venus on a cruise in the Atlantic Ocean.

More recently, on July 8, Capt. Ceferino Marzo and his 20-man Filipino crew rescued eight Filipinos, three Indonesians and the Taiwanese shipmaster of M/V Cape Orchid, which battled gale-force winds for two days in the Indian Ocean.

These heroic efforts are proof that Filipino seafarers "are the pride of the nation," said Cantillas and Bernardi. Yet while these seamen continue their heroism, this is where effective pastoral projects and resources should act as strategic reinforcements. One example would be parish-based migrants ministries. The Parokya ni San Juan Bosco in Tondo has an AOS parish chapter that organizes prayer activities for the seaman and their families.

Through pastoral care, Church workers can also conduct consciencitization activities where seamen and their families can build on their social capital and discuss their problems, share their experiences and do collective action.

Overall, the pastoral challenge to Filipino seafarers and their families left behind is formidable. For his part, Bishop Cantillas said the Christian faith can help provide that sense of pride and dignity to the Filipino seafarers. By doing so, our increasing faith can be transformed into action in order to help these people at sea.

The Church, its leaders and its allegiances need more than just prayers and faith to sustain the pastoral care of Filipino seafarers. If the response to the seamen's Church groups' SOS does not come soon, our "pride of the nation" will be subjected to more troubles that the Catholic and Christian churches may find hard to handle.

## THEY SAID

### Evidence or apology

"If he cannot present his evidence, he must apologize for using the august body that is the Senate for his desperate political flailing and mud-slinging."

***—Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's accusations against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and four others***

### If not one, the other

"Lacson is hitting my dad because he can't find anything wrong with my mom."

***—Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo on accusations his father, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, misused government funds***

### Taliban drugs for arms

"The arms the Taliban are buying today are paid for with the lives of young British people buying their drugs on British streets."

***—British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Afghan opium traders flooding European markets***

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# Medical students upset over PGH funding

AS medical students, it is our inherent responsibility to look beyond the physical aspect of a disease. Our mentors have emphasized over and over again the art of healing our patients holistically. We use this method for the reason that patients, whether treated or not, return to the same untreatable social illness in the community. Our knowledge about our patients' illnesses is insufficient if we keep ourselves confined to the four walls of our classrooms. We have to open our eyes. There is much more to learn about our patients than what we have extracted from them. They are not only persons with diseases but a reflection of the country's current social and health situation.

The Philippine General Hospital has stood as a final bastion for thousands of sick Filipinos over the years, a vast majority of them (67 percent) from the poorest of the poor, people with nowhere else to go. However, in their effort to acquire health care from the country's premiere government hospital, they are disheartened by hospital fees and laboratory tests that cost far beyond what they can afford to pay. Adding insult to injury, the PGH administration has passed a memorandum announcing the hospital's first series of rate increase effective Sept. 12, 2001. Although lower than that of the pay patients', the "charity rates" are still way beyond our indigent patients' financial capabilities.

The PGH has fallen into the trap of proving its self-sufficiency by sacrificing patient health care. It has conformed to the government's prescription of achieving fiscal autonomy.

The government allegedly has no money to spend on health services. In the year 2000, the health budget was further reduced to P10.2 billion, a mere 2 percent of the country's total budget. In 2002, the government intends to spend only 40 centavos per Filipino for health, based on an P11.8 billion proposed health budget. This may even be further reduced as a result of the current budget realignment in favor of the US war budget. On the other hand, debt servicing and the military account for the largest portion of the national budget, with the former getting the lion's share of 40 percent. For interest payments alone, our country spent P109 billion. This misappropriation of funds only speaks of the government's lopsided priorities.

As medical students, it is our inherent responsibility to look beyond the physical aspect of a disease. But, as UP medical students, whose education is being paid for and whose clinical skills are being honed by our Filipino patients, it is our obligation to give back to these same patients what is due them, their basic right to quality medical care. We, members of the Medicine Student Council, therefore ask you to get involved and join us in the call to stop the PGH rate and charge increases, fight for affordable and accessible health care delivery and fight for the increase in the health budget allocation of the PGH and other government hospitals.—**MARIA CLARISSA Z. LORETE, Students' Rights and Welfare Committee, PRIME G. RIMANDO, chair, Medicine Student Council, UP College of Medicine, Manila**

# Senate should ratify the Rome Statute

THE MEMBERS of the Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court (PCICC) welcome the declaration by judicial and legal experts in the country that the Philippines can ratify the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court without impinging on national laws.

The Rome Statute, overwhelmingly adopted by the United Nations in its 1998 Conference, seeks to establish a permanent international court that will prosecute individuals accused of committing some of the most heinous crimes of modern history. It shall exercise jurisdiction over the crimes of genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including gender-based crimes like rape, enforced pregnancy and sexual slavery. The Rome Statute provides that even heads of state like presidents and kings may not use immunity as defense for any crime committed.

Recognized as a momentous development in the field of international criminal law and human rights, the International Criminal Court (ICC) brings hope to millions of victims of human atrocities all over the world, and makes a tremendous contribution to the establishment of the rule of law globally. Even terrorist acts such as that of Sept. 11 can be considered as crimes against humanity, which is within the scope of the future court.

Philippine law already penalizes some of the acts within the jurisdiction of the ICC, such as rape and murder. Ratification of the Rome Statute will only serve to strengthen our own criminal justice system, and bring the country among the high ranks of states enforcing universal law and order. More importantly, the establishment of the court shall compel the armed forces to exercise strict professionalism in the conduct of their duties.

The PCICC, therefore, urges the Senate to immediately ratify the Rome Statute for the establishment of the ICC.—**DR. AURORA A. PARONG, deputy chair, Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court, c/o TFDP, 19 Malingap St., Teachers' Village, QC**

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# Veterans' wish list for 2001

THIS is an appeal to the Philippine Veterans' Administration Office, Congress and the President on behalf of the PVAO pensioners, a fast dying breed:

To the PVAO, Please have the crossed retirement checks reach the pensioners so that they can encash the same within the first week of the month. Up to 1998, pension checks were dated and reached the payees on the first day of the month. In the succeeding years, the payment dates were progressively advanced and delivery delayed and this year the payment date became the 25th of the month. In the last two months, the checks reached the payees close to the end of the month. Many needy pensioners have to resort to "5-6" loan sharks and other form of credit to survive.

There is a statutory increase of P500 a year in the retirement pension. This year, the increase was given in July and August, with a written promise of the PVAO administrator that the increase up to the end of the year will be paid. What about the arrears from January to July? Will we get them before Christmas?

To Congress: About a decade or so ago, a law was passed granting PVAO pensioners a disability pension (over and above the regular retirement pension) upon reaching the age of 70. Not a single centavo of this disability pension has ever been appropriated. Will our lawmakers please appropriate the needed amount in next year's budget? I know that government finances are tight, but aren't the World War II veterans deserving? Also, the veterans' bloc is quite potent, with children, grandchildren, *mares, pares, balaes*, etc.

To President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: You have on several occasions publicly announced your total support for the veterans. Will you turn this support into concrete form by allocating some of your discretionary funds for a one-time Christmas gift to the PVAO pensioners this year?—**DIG ASUNCION, Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City**

# Bishops pray for priest's release

PLEASE accept our expression of deep concern regarding the abduction of Fr. Giuseppi Pierantoni. We received the disturbing news before we went to the Synod Hall. I asked our workshop group led by Cardinals Keeler of Baltimore, Stafford and Arinze both of the Vatican to offer our Opening Prayer of Terce for the safety and quick release of Father Giuseppi. The superior general of Father Giuseppi's congregation is with us in the Synod of Bishops as a representative of the Union of Superiors General. I talked with him to express our solidarity with the congregation in these days of great anxiety for them and for us.

I am sure that Bishop Jimenez is doing everything he can to get in touch with whoever has taken Father Giuseppi. We keep Father Giuseppi in our prayers. Archbishop Legaspi and Archbishop Rosales join me in prayers for him.—**ORLANDO B. QUEVEDO, O.M.I, archbishop of Cotabato and president, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines**

# The importance of cheerful greetings

IN HIS Oct. 21 column, Justice Isagani Cruz rightly said: "The civil service must receive a massive reorientation on its responsibilities as the faithful servants and not the mere beneficiaries and dependents of the public it is sworn to serve."

That is very true. Once I saw a woman employee eating her noodles on her table while a long line of people waiting for their turn were watching her. The woman employee was not ashamed of what she was doing and was not bothered by all the people watching her putting the long noodles in her mouth.

In the United States, there is always a line for people waiting for their turn to be attended to by a civil servant. But when it is already your turn, the civil servant will always greet you with "Good morning, sir." Then he will always ask you, "How are you doing?" or "What can I do for you today?" The civil servant will be attentive to you, and will be cheerful while attending to your needs. When you are done, the civil servant will always say, "Thank you, have a good day."

This is true even in the tollgates or in airport counters. "Good morning," "How are you?" "How are you doing today?" "Thank you," "Have a good day." These are greetings that can be given free yet make one's day brighter.

The manager of the tollgates, the Civil Service Commission and the Government Service Insurance System will be doing a great job if they will require their employees to do the same and say these greetings to people dealing with them.

This will show to the world that we are a civilized and good-natured people.—**RICARDO M. FOJAS, Suite 30-N, RBCC Building, 113 Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City**

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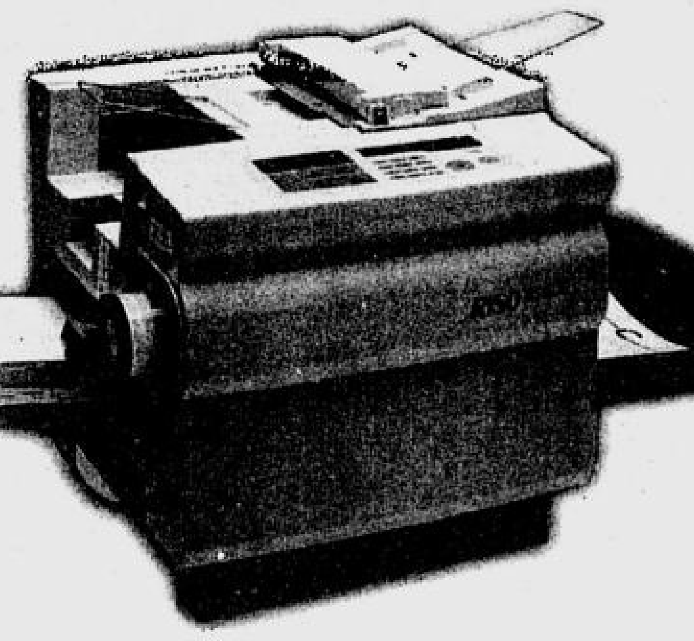
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LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

# Over 350 dead as refugee boat sinks

**GENEVA—More than 350 migrants—most of them Iraqis—drowned when the boat they were on sank off the coast of Indonesia, the International Organization for Migration said Monday.**

The organization said it was looking after 44 survivors who were rescued from the sea a day after the boat went down Friday morning.

There had been 400 people on board, said IOM spokesperson Jean-Philippe Chauzy.

According to survivors who were interviewed by IOM staff, the ship left the island of Java on Thursday with 421 people on board, Chauzy said. Later that day, 21 passengers asked to get off the boat and disembarked on an island in the Java Sea.

Early Friday morning, the captain announced that the engine had stopped and the ship was taking on water.

"The boat sank in 10 minutes," said Chauzy.

He said the 44 survivors were rescued by local fisherman on Saturday morning. They were being cared for in the town of Bogor in Java. They included an 8-year-old boy who lost 21 relatives.

Chauzy said the people on the ship were migrants. Most were Iraqis but there were also Iranians, Afghans, Palestinians and Algerians.

He said he did not have any information on where the ship was headed.

Every year thousands of migrants pass through southeast Asia in their search for better lives. Many leaving Indonesia are headed for Australia.

In August, a Norwegian freighter rescued more than 400 people from a sinking Indonesian ferry off the coast of Christmas Island. Australia refused entry to the asylum seekers and they were eventually sent to New Zealand and to the remote Pacific island of Nauru.

Chauzy said the IOM had sent a team of four, including one doctor, to Bogor to provide medical help and counseling to the survivors. *AP*

## *44 survivors traumatized*

BOGOR, Indonesia—With the death toll apparently in the hundreds, traumatized survivors of a boat sinking in Indonesia say the fast-moving tragedy was like the film "Titanic." UN officials said Tuesday only 44 survivors were pulled from the water out of a reported 421 on board.

One of the survivors, Amal Hasan, a 47-year-old woman from Iraq, said about 200 people, mainly women and children, were trapped in the boat's hull when it went down. Others drowned after floating in the water for hours.

"I held onto a woman's body for two days. I was very tired. I wanted to die. I saw children die quickly, including beautiful girls," she said.

The wooden boat, which was carrying illegal immigrants to neighboring Australia's Christmas Island, sank Friday. But news of the catastrophe was only made public on Monday.

Underscoring the clandestine nature of people smuggling and the difficulties Indonesian authorities have in controlling it, spokesperson for the Police and Navy could not confirm reports of the sinking.

On Tuesday in the Wisma Palar refugee camp in Bogor, a town about 60 km south of Jakarta, dozens of people were milling about, many of them traumatized by their experience.

"It was just like the film, Titanic," said a survivor who refused to give his name. "Once the problem started, the boat almost went down immediately."

Bahram Khan, from Jalalabad, Afghanistan, said he had lost four brothers in the disaster. He said the 19-meter vessel had set sail from a fishing port in southern Sumatra after the refugees paid $4,000 each for the voyage.

"About 2 p.m. the hull sprang a hole. The mechanic could not fix it and the boat sank," Khan said, adding that he had spent 20 hours clinging to a piece of wood before being picked up by Indonesian fishermen.

The International Organization for Migration reported in Geneva that most of the immigrants were Iraqis, but that there were also Afghans, Palestinians and Algerians on board.

Thousands of migrants head for Australia every year from Southeast Asia. Leaky, unseaworthy vessels overloaded with passengers and cargo routinely leave Indonesian ports without working radios or enough lifejackets.

The ship left on Thursday, IOM spokesperson Jean-Philippe Chauzy said. Later that day, 21 passengers asked to get off the boat and were put ashore on an Indonesian island.

Early the following morning, the captain announced that the engine had stopped and the ship was taking on water.

"The boat sank in 10 minutes," Chauzy said.

Maritime disasters, with large loss of life, are common in Indonesia, a chain of more than 13,000 islands between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Sea safety is often lax and shipping laws are ignored. *AP*

# Iraq may have been involved in US attacks —ex-CIA chief

WASHINGTON—Former CIA Director James Woolsey says Iraq likely was involved in the attacks of Sept. 11 and that the United States will probably confront President Saddam Hussein as part of its ongoing campaign against terrorism.

"There are too many things, too many examples of stolen identities, of cleverly-crafted documentation, of coordination across continents and between states . . . to stray very far from the conclusion that a state, and a very well-run intelligence service is involved here," he told the national convention of the American Jewish Congress yesterday.

He also pointed to the perceived long-term planning and subsequent use of "refined" anthrax as evidence of state support in the attacks, noting to reporters later that the Iraqi intelligence service has been meeting with Islamic extremist terrorists, including some in al-Qaida, and that Saddam has spent years trying to cultivate these ties.

While saying there is not yet enough evidence to convict Saddam for the attacks, he said there are "enough indications that we should be highly suspicious, be very alert and should look under that rock as hard as we possibly can."

An exiled Iraqi opposition group that wants to increase its intelligence activities inside Iraq said Monday that it had held meetings with the ex-CIA chief and State Department officials.

Iraqi National Congress officials met with Woolsey in London several weeks ago, group spokesperson Sharif Ali Bin Al Hussein said in Washington.

Al Hussein, who sits on the INC leadership council, said he was not at the meeting and did not know what had been discussed. The Italian newspaper La Repubblica reported Saturday that the two sides talked about alleged links between the Iraqi government and the attacks.

US officials have blamed the attacks the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, saying they have no hard evidence of an Iraqi role.

Woolsey said he visited the British capital and met with the US ambassador shortly after the attacks. He denied meeting with the INC in London, but said he has met with them on numerous occasions and that his law firm represents them. *AP*

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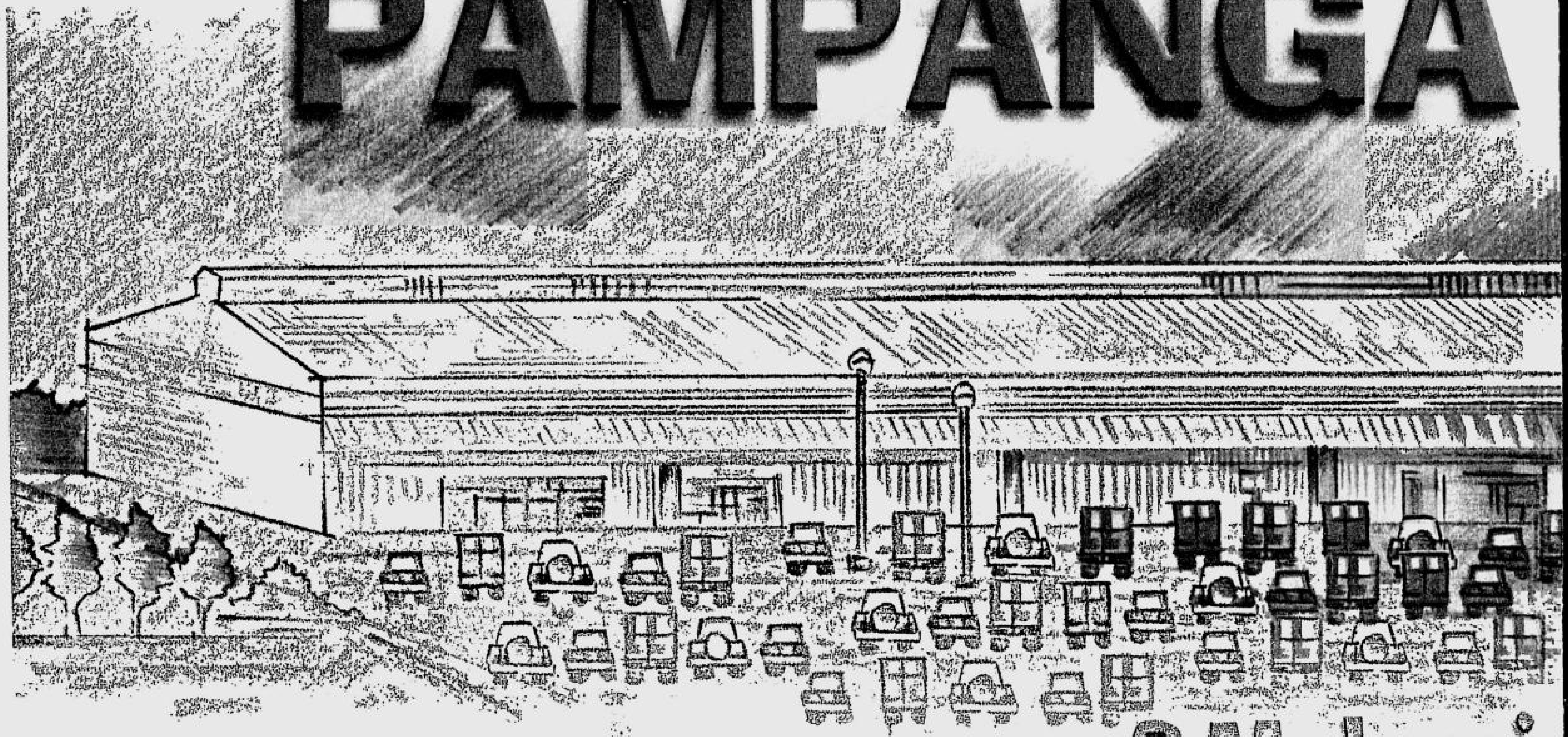

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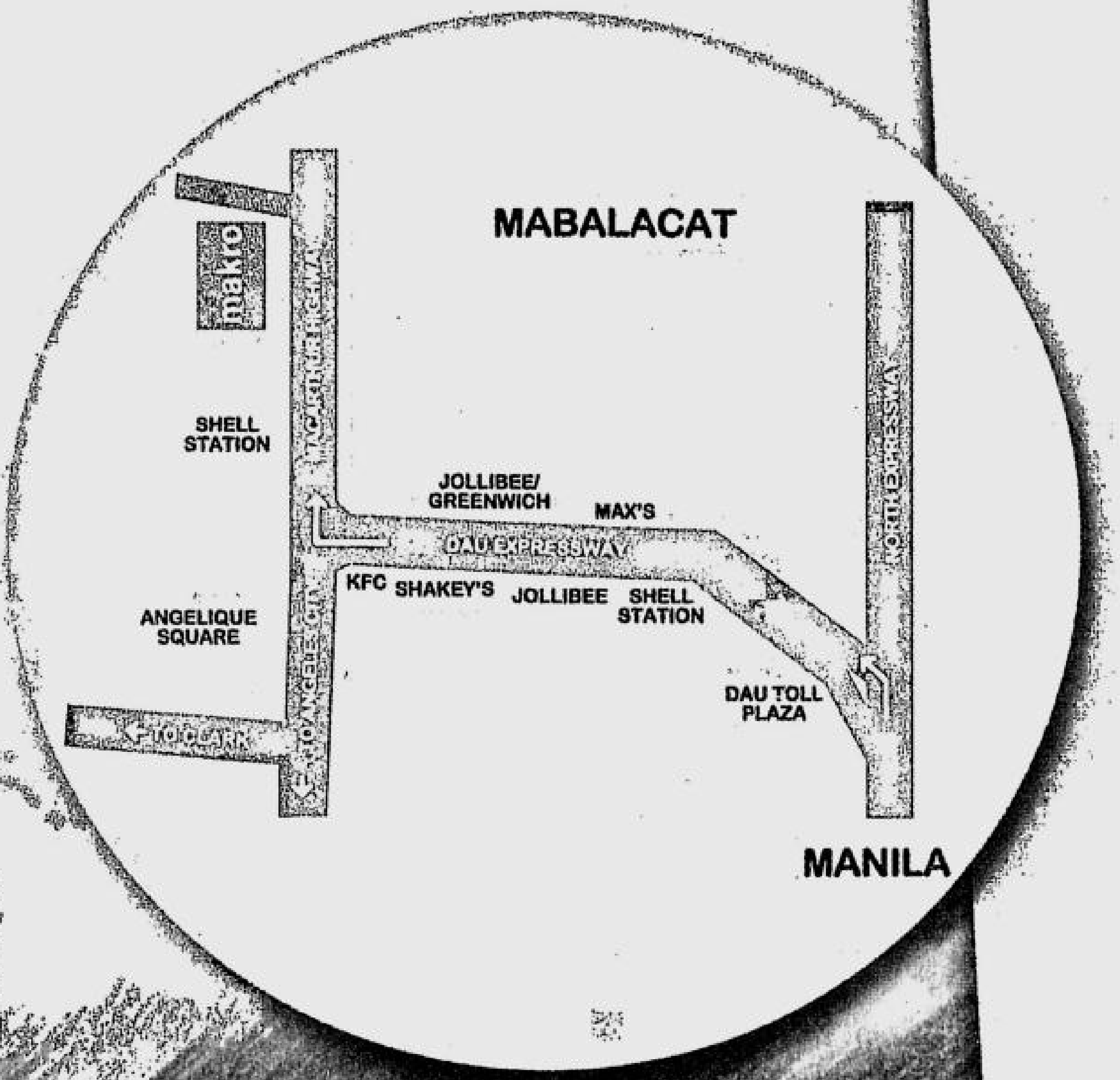
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# Israel defies US demand to stop invasions

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army extended its incursions into Palestinian areas overnight after flatly rejecting a US demand for its "immediate" withdrawal from self-rule towns in the West Bank, Palestinian security officials said yesterday.

With Israeli forces already battling gunmen in six Palestinian West Bank towns, troops were sent into Palestinian refugee camps at Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip overnight Monday, the sources said.

Several homes were said to have been destroyed, but there were no reports of casualties.

The latest incursion came hours after Israel rejected US demands to withdraw its forces from the Palestinian towns they have operated in since Oct. 18 when the Army mounted its heaviest incursions since the launch of Palestinian autonomy in 1994.

The US state department urged the Israeli forces to withdraw "immediately" from all Palestinian-controlled areas, while calling on Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to do more to stamp out violence.

That call came as an Islamic militant died in a car bomb attack, bringing the toll from the incursions to 27 Palestinians dead.

State department spokesperson Philip Reeker condemned "Israeli defense force actions that have killed numerous Palestinian civilians over the weekend."

Reeker termed as "unacceptable" the deaths of "innocent civilians" and said the Israeli incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas "have contributed to a significant escalation in tension and violence."

However Israeli radio reported officials close to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as saying that the Army would "stay in its new positions so long as the threat of attack exists from terrorist organizations against which the Palestinian Authority is doing nothing."

Israel mounted its military incursion into the Palestinian towns, with Bethlehem the prime target, a day after tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi was assassinated in annexed east Jerusalem by Palestinian radicals on Oct. 17.

After the murder, "Israel like any other democratic country . . . must exercise its right to self-defense for all its inhabitants," said a statement from the prime minister's office, in reaction to the US demand for a pullout.

"Israel does not intend to conquer the territories of zone A (under full Palestinian control under autonomy accords) but demands that Yasser Arafat extradite the killers of Rehavam Zeevi and those who sent them." *AFP*

**ISRAELI** soldiers make adjustments on a tank at a checkpoint before entering the Palestinian-ruled town of Bethlehem.

REUTERS

# Australia jury acquits 3 in mercy slay

PERTH, Australia—A jury yesterday took less than 10 minutes to acquit three people, one of them a doctor, of murdering a woman dying of cancer by giving her a cocktail of drugs.

Kidney specialist, Dr Daryl Alan Stephens, 50, Lena Vinson, 58, and her brother Warren Hayes, 54, were also cleared of assisting the suicide of terminally-ill Freeda Hayes, 48, the sister of Vinson and Warren Hayes.

Prosecutor David Dempster told the court Stephens had willfully murdered Hayes with the encouragement and assistance of her brother and sister, who are both from Sydney.

All three pleaded not guilty to the murder charges and not guilty to an alternative charge of assisting a suicide.

The crown alleged Ms Hayes was alive at 7:05 p.m. on Feb. 4 when nurse Diane Grennan checked her, but was found unexpectedly dead less than an hour later after Mr. Hayes told the nurse he could not wake his sister.

Tests revealed fast-acting drugs were in her system and nurse Grennan testified she had caught the three engaged in an illicit procedure at 7:10 p.m.

However, defense lawyers argued there was no proof Stephens had access to the drugs used, and a defense witness testified Ms Hayes was still alive about 20-30 minutes after the fast-acting drugs were alleged to have killed her.

The case came five years after Australia's Northern Territory became the first state in the world to legalize voluntary euthanasia and Darwin general practitioner, Dr. Philip Nitschke, legally assisted four cancer patients to die voluntarily in 1996. *AFP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### No Vajpayee-Musharraf meet

LUCKNOW, India—Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Monday ruled out a meeting with Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf during his visit to the UN General Assembly session in New York next month. Vajpayee said the doors were open to resume the stalled dialogue between the two South Asian neighbors, but cautioned that "there will be no gain from the talks" as long as Pakistan was supporting terrorism across the border in India. India accuses Pakistan of training, arming and financing more than a dozen Islamic militant groups fighting Indian security forces since 1989 in the northern Indian state of Jammu-Kashmir. The militants are seeking independence for Kashmir or its merger with Pakistan. Islamabad denies India's charges, but admits that it offers moral and diplomatic support for the militants, whom Pakistan describes as "freedom fighters." Human rights organizations in Jammu-Kashmir say at least 60,000 people have been killed in the fighting. *AP*

### N. Korea opts for Kumgang

SEOUL—North Korea yesterday turned down the South's request that resuming ministerial talks be held in Pyongyang and continued to press for Mount Kumgang as the venue, officials said. North Korean senior Cabinet councilor Kim Ryong-song said in a message delivered Tuesday to the South, that the talks, scheduled to begin on Oct. 28, should open in Mount Kumgang, north of the inter-Korean border. The message was in response to South Korean Unification Minister Hong Soon-young's call Monday to hold the talks in the North's capital. Seoul has yet to decide on how to react to Pyongyang's counter offer. Both Koreas have been waging a tug-of-war for weeks over the venues for planned inter-Korean talks, casting new doubt over their peace process. *AFP*

### US identity thefts increase

WASHINGTON—The number of identity thefts reported by banks and other financial institutions is on the upsurge again in 2001 after more than doubling last year, according to a new report released on Monday. From January to the end of April this year, the US Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network received 332 reports of identity theft, compared with 637 cases over the whole of 2000 and 267 cases in 1999. "That amounts to a 50-percent increase from the same period a year ago," the agency noted in its semiannual review of trends in so-called suspicious activity reports (SARs)—which banks must file with the government on transactions that appear to be linked to money laundering or other criminal activities. *Reuters*

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# Across the NATION

**Tony Bergonia**, Assistant Editor

# 4 letters negative of anthrax in CL

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—At least four suspected anthrax-laden letters, gathered from Central Luzon provinces since last week, tested negative for the deadly bacteria, a top regional health official said.

All letters were "negative" of the anthrax strain, said Dr. Eric Tayag, Department of Health assistant regional director, citing findings released Monday by the DOH health care laboratory in Manila.

Police stations and hospitals turned over to the DOH the suspicious mails received by various addressees from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales and from three families in Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Bulacan.

The letter from Cabanatuan City, originating from an anonymous source in Singapore and containing white powder, was the last to be tested, Tayag said.

All four members of the family who received the letter were given baths and antibiotics as precautionary measures against anthrax exposure, it was learned.

The mails received by the SBMA and two residents were addressed to United States President George W. Bush and other foreign officials. The recipients did not open the letters.

"They're all false alarms," Tayag stressed.

He urged the INQUIRER not to call yet the incident as "hoaxes" until after persons or groups publicly claim responsibility for sending the letters.

According to Tayag, the immediate reporting of suspicious letters was a "clear indication of the public's heightened awareness" of anthrax, which has become a cause of public concern in the US and in other parts of the world following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

But even on the heels of negative tests, he said the DOH and the regional inter-agency environmental health cluster were forming on Friday a task force that seeks to promote "preventive steps" against anthrax contamination.

While Tayag stressed that "there appeared to be no indication yet of mass hysteria" over the bacteria, it was "possible" that consumers in Central Luzon were beginning to buy antibiotics against anthrax.

In particular, Tayag said the DOH was also monitoring the price and sales of the generic antibiotic Ciprofloxocin, which now sells for P70 a tablet.

An anthrax-infected person is supposed to take that drug twice a day for two months, Tayag said.

To minimize the risks of anthrax contamination, public health workers in the region have been trained to handle suspicious mails.

"We are prepared," Tayag said of the DOH's capability to handle anthrax cases. Not one has occurred in the last five years, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## WEATHER FORECAST

**FORECAST:** Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | HI 32° Lo 24° |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | HI 27° Lo 16° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Partly Cloudy | HI 33° Lo 20° |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | HI 35° Lo 25° |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | HI 32° Lo 24° |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | HI 28° Lo 22° |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 26° |
| **Calapan** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 33° Lo 23° |
| **Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 23° |
| **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 25° |
| **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 25° |
| **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 25° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 34° Lo 23° |
| **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 33° Lo 23° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 22° |
| **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 33° Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/10/24/01

## ROUNDUP

### Thanks for Dunuan

LAGAWE, Ifugao—The provincial board of Ifugao has thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for appointing lawyer Evelyn Dunuan as the chair of the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples. "The appointment of (Dunuan) is a positive step toward the attainment of the goals and objectives of the (country's) cultural communities," said Board Member Catalina Accatan in a resolution. Dunuan, an Ifugao (not Ibaloi as earlier reported), is highly respected in the province for her advocacy of the rights and welfare of cultural communities and tribal groups. *Maribelle Dulnuan-Bimohya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### New La Union cop chief

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Supt. Paterno Bangui assumed the leadership of the La Union police. Bangui, a native of Isabela and former San Fernando City police director, replaced Senior Supt. Wilmer Panabang who has been assigned as deputy chief for community relations of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Child-friendly city

SAN FERNANDO CITY—For the second consecutive year, this city was adjudged as the "Most Child-Friendly City" in the Ilocos region, edging out Laoag City in the search. Cristeta Absolor, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said the annual search recognizes the vital role of local governments in promoting children's rights. She said the region's seven cities were assessed based on resource allocation, service delivery and institution building for children. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Rubber boats distributed

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The provincial government has distributed rubber boats to each of the 10 flood-prone coastal towns in La Union on Monday. The Korean-made rubber boats, valued at P320,000 each, are equipped with a 30-horsepower generator and can carry six to eight people. The mayors of Balaoan, Bacnotan, San Juan, Bauang, Bangar, Agoo, Aringay, Sto. Tomas and Rosario and San Fernando City received the rubber boats that would be used during typhoons. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Awarding of winners

THE AWARDING of the winners of the outstanding PERAA members (TOPM) in teaching and non-teaching categories and outstanding participating institutions will be the highlight of the 29th founding anniversary of the Private Education Retirement Annuity Association (Peraa). The ceremonies will be held on Oct. 26 at the Cebu Plaza Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City, according to Dr. Oscar G. Josef, PERAA president.

# List of cops in drugs angers police official

DAVAO CITY—Regional police commander Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano directed the chief of the police's narcotics office to explain the unauthorized release of a list containing names of law enforcers suspected of being drug pushers and users.

"... explain within 24 hours why no disciplinary action should be taken against you for releasing the invalidated list of suspected PNP personnel involved in such illegal activities," Matillano told Supt. Efren Alcuizar in a memorandum.

Matillano apparently got angry with Alcuizar for apparently not coordinating with him in the release of the names of policemen allegedly involved in drugs to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte read the names of those in the list over his weekly radio and television program aired over a local ABS-CBN channel here.

A total of 500 individuals including 22 policemen were included in the list.

But Matillano was further enraged upon knowing that he was not furnished a copy of the same list.

In his written explanation submitted yesterday, Alcuizar denied he was the one who gave Duterte the list of policemen involved in drugs and reasoned out that it could have come from other sources.

He admitted though that he himself submitted the list of civilian drug users and pushers, which was culled from reports generated by the barangay anti-drug abuse councils.

Alcuizar added that it was not his first time to provide a similar list to government officials, who are members of the peace and order councils.

As this developed, Matillano warned police commanders that they would be relieved from the service should they continue to fail in solving the summary execution of suspected pushers and users.

Matillano also announced that he was forming a special group that would investigate the killings, which already reached 15 as of yesterday, and unmask those behind them.

"There were already a lot of unsolved killings, and these must be addressed comprehensively," he said. *Anthony S. Allada and Dennis J. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2946 Series of 2001

# 12,000 workers lose jobs in C. Luzon factories

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—About 12,000 workers in Central Luzon were laid off from January until September this year, more than twice the number of displaced employees for the same period last year.

Reports from the Department of Labor and Employment said the job losses stemmed from the closure and retrenchment in 198 firms in the region amid slowdown in the export market.

By province, layoff figures in Pampanga more than doubled, reaching 4,512 as of September. Bulacan, which registered the third biggest number of retrenchments last year, was second at 3,037. Bataan, which in September last year had the most number of job losses, slid to third at 2,758.

Reports from the Department of Labor and Employment showed that job cuts were more rampant in the region's four major economic zones, a trend that has been observed in the last five years.

The Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, Bataan Economic Zone in Bataan, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales and Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac took the largest chunk of laid-off workers at 7,085.

Clark and the BEZ led in terms of share in displaced employees.

At least 79 of the 198 distressed companies were located in the four economic zones, reports said.

The crisis plaguing businesses in the country was aggravated by the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

All over the world, companies have been laying off thousands of workers.

The telecommunications firm Siemens, manufacturer of cell phones and other products, is laying off close to 15,000 workers.

The airline industry was the worst hit by the attacks.

Thousands of workers in airlines lost their jobs after airline sales plunged following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Terrorists on a suicide mission and suspected of having links with Osama bin Laden hijacked jumbo jets in the United States and slammed them into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

A third plane was reported aimed at the White House but passengers prevented the hijackers from proceeding to the US capitol.

The attacks' effects on the Philippines was felt strongly in the business community and in airports around the country.

Security was tightened after the attacks and the Philippine government agreed to allow US jets and ships to dock in the country for refueling and supply loading. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## Moro rebs attack police outpost

PARANG, Maguindanao—Suspected Moro rebels fired rifle grenades at the police office here early Monday.

The attack wounded at least three law enforcers including chief of police Insp. Sukarno Dicay.

Dicay said the suspects, who were on a motorcycle, also fired rifles at the police office.

Aside from Dicay, the other wounded policemen were identified as PO2 Bigsuk Mansor and PO2 Samsudin Taramas.

Mansor suffered shrapnel wounds in the face while Taramas and Dicay suffered injuries in the body.

Dicay said that before the attack, the town's police force was already receiving threats from some group after they intensified their operations against illegal firearms.

Earlier operations, he said, led to the seizure of firearms of various calibers, including those owned by members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But even as MILF rebels were on top of the suspects' list, Dicay said he is not discounting the fact that a feud between ranking leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front could be one reason for the attack.

The police chief is a relative of Carlito Dicay, one of those involved in a recent dispute over the post of port manager at the Polloc Port in Barangay Sarmiento here. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Increasing number of dogs in Iloilo worry health execs

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—There is a dog for every seven Ilonggos and this ratio has worried authorities involved in an anti-rabies drive.

Authorities want towns and barangays to pass ordinances limiting the number of dogs per household.

The cost of vaccinating 223,029 dogs for rabies in Iloilo province could reach P66 million at P300 per dog. The province's population is estimated to be about 1.7 million.

Dr. Rosendo Gamba Jr., chief of the veterinary division of PAO, said the amount is staggering for a province whose internal revenue allocation (IRA) was reduced by P113 million this year.

Only half of Iloilo's dog population had been inoculated for rabies as of August. While the province seeks to attain a rabies-free dog population by 2004, the goal is like pushing a huge boulder uphill, said Gamba, who heads the anti-rabies task force since 1999.

Gamba said dogs are prolific breeder. They mature in seven months and a bitch is pregnant for 60 days. Ilonggos are not known for slaughtering dogs for meat. Dogs are neither neutered nor killed even if they are too many unless they show signs of being rabid.

"Vaccination is expensive and it must go alongside the advocacy of convincing Ilonggos to be responsible owners of dogs," Gamba.

He said being a "responsible" dog owner means caring for the hygiene of the animal, leashing it or preventing it from straying around, a situation which contributes greatly to the spread of the rabies virus.

The Department of Health said rabies is a "public health issue," because it can cost lives.

Rabies attacks the central nervous system of humans who are bitten by rabid dogs. The DOH works with the Department of Agriculture and local government units to vaccinate dogs, the animal carriers of rabies.

But Gamba said that even if 99 percent of all dogs were immunized and the one not immunized still roams the streets, there is still a 99 percent likelihood of the others being afflicted by the virus after one year, the potency of the vaccination.

He said the government must continue spending for immunization yearly to catch up with the increase in canine population.

The DA placed the cost of immunization at P300 per dog, to cover the cost of vaccines and their freight, and the allowances of technicians. Private veterinary clinics charge P1,500 minimum per dog vaccinated.

Aside from regulating the dog population, members of the anti-rabies task force want barangays and towns to establish dog pounds to detain and later, dispose of stray dogs. They cited the experience of other places that licked rabies without resorting to massive vaccination by simply banning stray dogs.

The town having the biggest dog population is Miag-ao, 40 kilometers south of this city, with 16,875, followed by Pavia, 12 kilometers north, with 10,022. Pavia has 68 percent of its canines, or 6,820, immunized. Only 2,800 or 15.7 percent of dogs in Miag-ao were vaccinated.

The other towns in the top five-slot of dog population are Oton with 8,674; Lambunao, 8,640; and Januiay, 7,282, with immunization rates of 37.6 percent, 32 percent and 77.6 percent, respectively.

## Amok shot dead

IBA, Zambales—A 55-year-old man who ran amuck was shot and killed by a policeman at the doorway of the mayor's office here on Monday.

Before he stormed the municipal hall wielding a bolo, Martin Llanos, a former municipal hall employee who, police said, was mentally ill, hacked and wounded four of his neighbors when he went berserk in a neighborhood near the town hall.

Police identified the wounded victims as Madi Yadi Malago, 55; Ingo Malang, 28; Alexander Bonifacio, 14; and Basser Iman, 15. They were taken to the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital here. Doctors said Malago was in critical condition due to a deep hack wound in her neck.

Mayor Danny Pamoleras said he immediately locked his office to prevent Llanos from entering.

Pamoleras said Llanos entered the municipal hall by breaking windows and then ran after municipal employees threatening them with his bolo.

SPO4 Nestor Bajas, who pursued Llanos, said he was forced to shoot Llanos when the latter tried to attack him. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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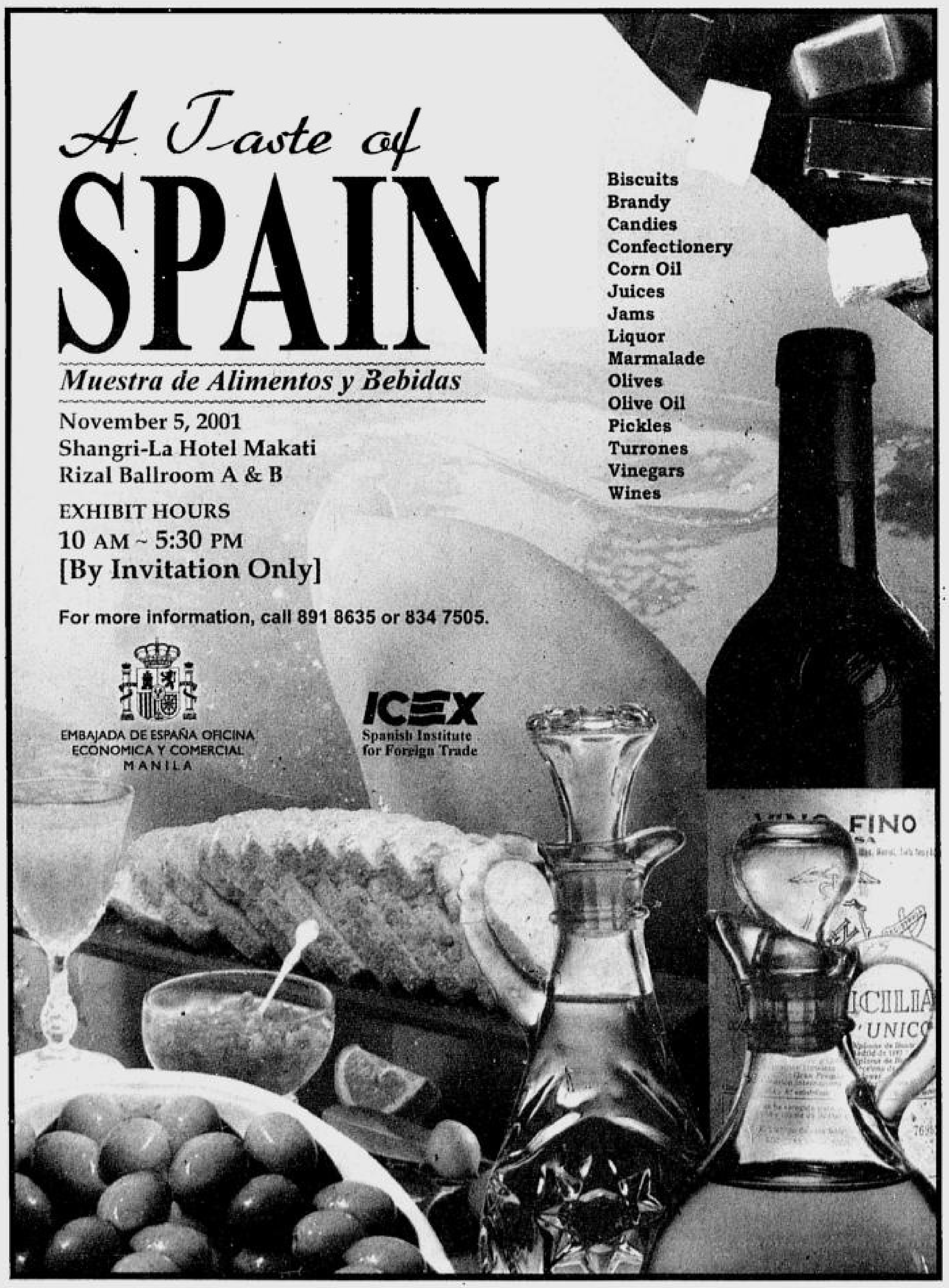

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News that makes a difference

# 5 die of measles in remote Agusan Sur village

**TESTING LUCK**

The search for luck takes various forms, like this bingo game preoccupying people in a government plaza in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. BEN MOSES EBREO

## Vaccines shunned by parents because of beliefs

LA PAZ, Agusan del Sur—Five children died of measles and at least 55 other persons in Sitios Manguikaw and Libon in Barangay Lydia in this town were stricken with the disease.

They were diagnosed to have measles after a team from the Religious of the Good Shepherd-Tribal Filipino Ministry (RGS-TFM) Health Program conducted a medical mission in the village last week.

The medical team, led by Dr. Girlie Tagra, went to La Paz from San Luis town after Eli Ybañez, the RGS-Graded Literacy Program coordinator, visited the area only to find out that many children have already been afflicted with the disease.

Tagra said they had to prioritize the more serious cases for insufficient supply of medicines. They also conducted a health education program for the children's parents on how to prevent measles.

Tagra said the measles cases have been complicated with pneumonia.

Pneumonia was what directly killed the casualties.

The Department of Health in Caraga disclosed an increase in the number of measles cases in the months of September to October. Dr. Charito Awiten, regional health director, said there were at least 29 cases all over La Paz for the said period and that they have since dispatched a team from the Regional Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (RESU) to help the local government unit control the spread of the disease.

Dr. Marydee Plazo, RESU head, however, said they were not aware of the recent case in Barangay Lydia and that the data from the RGS-TFM team were not added to the unit's list since there were no reports yet of this case from the Provincial Health Office of Agusan del Sur.

Awiten stressed there was no epidemic. He said what health authorities found was an increase in the number of measles cases.

She said the areas afflicted with measles were those they could not easily reach and where most parents refuse to have their children vaccinated because it was cultural taboo.

Measles is an endemic airborne virus that plagues children who are undernourished, unvaccinated, and lacking in vitamin A.

Measles vaccination has an inherent failure rate of 15 percent in a year resulting in a pattern of outbreaks of the disease every three to four years. *Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Power firm says refund amount inaccurate

DAVAO CITY—The Aboitiz-owned Davao Light and Power Company said the decision of the Court of Appeals directing it to refund its consumers did not specify any amount contrary to claims made by some individuals.

Earlier, Francisco Tesorero, one of those who sued the DLPC for alleged overcharging, claimed that the DLPC would have to return an estimated P300 million to its more than 100,000 consumers because of the court decision.

The court ruled that the power firm indeed collected excess power rates from 1984 to 1989.

Tesorero, an accountant, said the estimate was taken from the computation of excessive rates collected by DLPC from Jan. 19, 1984 to Sept. 18, 1989.

However, the DLPC, in a statement, said it has not exceeded its allowable return on rate base and that there are no excess earnings to be refunded.

The DLPC said the decision of the appellate court ordering it to make a refund "will now be elevated to the Supreme Court through a petition for review."

"Davao Light would like to inform the public that the recently issued denial by the Court of Appeals of the company's motion for reconsideration…will now be elevated to the Supreme Court through a petition for review," the power firm said.

In its decision dated Sept. 27, the appellate court said "a refund of the electric rates in excess during this period can no longer be delayed."

But the DLPC said after the matter is decided by the high court, the Energy Regulatory Commission "still has to conduct a rate review to determine if in fact at any time during the said period, Davao Light exceeded its allowable return on rate base."

# Ifugao gov't to tap alternative sources of energy for villages

LAGAWE, Ifugao—The provincial government has started to tap Ifugao's renewable energy sources to fully energize remote villages of the province.

With the launching of the Rural Electrification Using Sustainable Energy (Reuse) program, Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. hopes that the electrification of Ifugao's rural communities would boost production in agriculture and industry.

Baguilat said Reuse would establish a sustainable energy base to accelerate progress in Ifugao, more than 300 kilometers north of Metro Manila.

Carmelita Buyuccan, provincial planning and development coordinator, said Ifugao is rich in solar, wind and hydropower potentials that could be used for electricity.

Baguilat said the project would tap Ifugao's abundant renewable energy potentials to fully energize communities which cannot be tapped by the Ifugao Electric Cooperative (Ifelco) in the next three to five years.

Studies by the provincial government showed that grid electricity is expensive, limiting its provincial coverage because of prohibitive costs and technical difficulties in extending power distribution lines over long rugged mountains to service Ifugao villagers.

Ifugao supplies the main bulk of water source propelling the Magat hydroelectric power plant in Ramon, Isabela. The power plant provides electricity to many parts of Cagayan Valley.

"It is about time that the Ifugao people shall have a taste of what they are providing to our lowland brothers," Baguilat said. "Empowering the upland communities through electricity would mean revolutionizing production in agriculture and industry."

If the project succeeds, Ifugao's cottage industries like loom weaving and woodcarving would improve in terms of product competitiveness due to extended working hours and the use of electrical machines for mass production.

Through the initiatives of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) and its local counterpart agencies, five mini hydropower plants and four solar house systems are now servicing Ifugao villagers, Buyuccan said.

Yet there is much work to do.

Of the 31,346 households in Ifugao, only 38 percent of these are energized as of September this year.

Baguilat said he approved a P1.19-million budget for this year's fourth quarter to implement projects under the Reuse program.

Among these are a hydropower project in Hungduan town, a solar energy project for a school and the electrification of four areas in the province.

Baguilat said Reuse would provide technical and financial aid to projects proposed under the program based on the following requirements:

- The proposed electrification project through renewable energy is included in the approved local development plan in the case of villages and towns.
- The beneficiary community or institution is willing to provide its counterpart fund for the project.
- The proposed project shall demonstrate potential for high socio-economic or socio-cultural impact.
- The systems shall be community owned and managed.

On Nov. 7, the provincial government, Ifelco and Mirant Philippines, a corporation managing power plants in Quezon and Pangasinan provinces, would also sign a memorandum of agreement over a P3.8-million grant for electrification projects in the province.

Julian Pe Benito, Ifelco manager, said the grant from Mirant will come in the form of electric posts, conductor base and line hardware and would be coursed through Ifelco. *Maribelle Dulnuan-Bimohya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Reghis back in Palawan

**By Jofelle P. Tesorio**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Kidnap victim Reghis Romero has come back to Palawan after his grueling experience in the hands of his Abu Sayyaf captors.

Many were surprised when he was seen together with Gov. Joel Reyes on Saturday to judge the talent competition of Miss Earth 2001 here.

In an exclusive interview, Romero said, he felt different when he returned to the province after almost five months since the kidnapping in Dos Palmas on May 29.

Despite the incident, Romero still believes that it was an isolated case and will never happen to Palawan again.

"Right now I feel safe and secure. I don't think it will happen again in Palawan," Romero said in relief.

On Saturday night, Romero will have a chance to visit Dos Palmas again to watch the talent competition of Miss Earth.

According to Romero, he had overcome the emotional feelings and the fear brought about by the kidnapping. He even praised the government for its operations against the bandits.

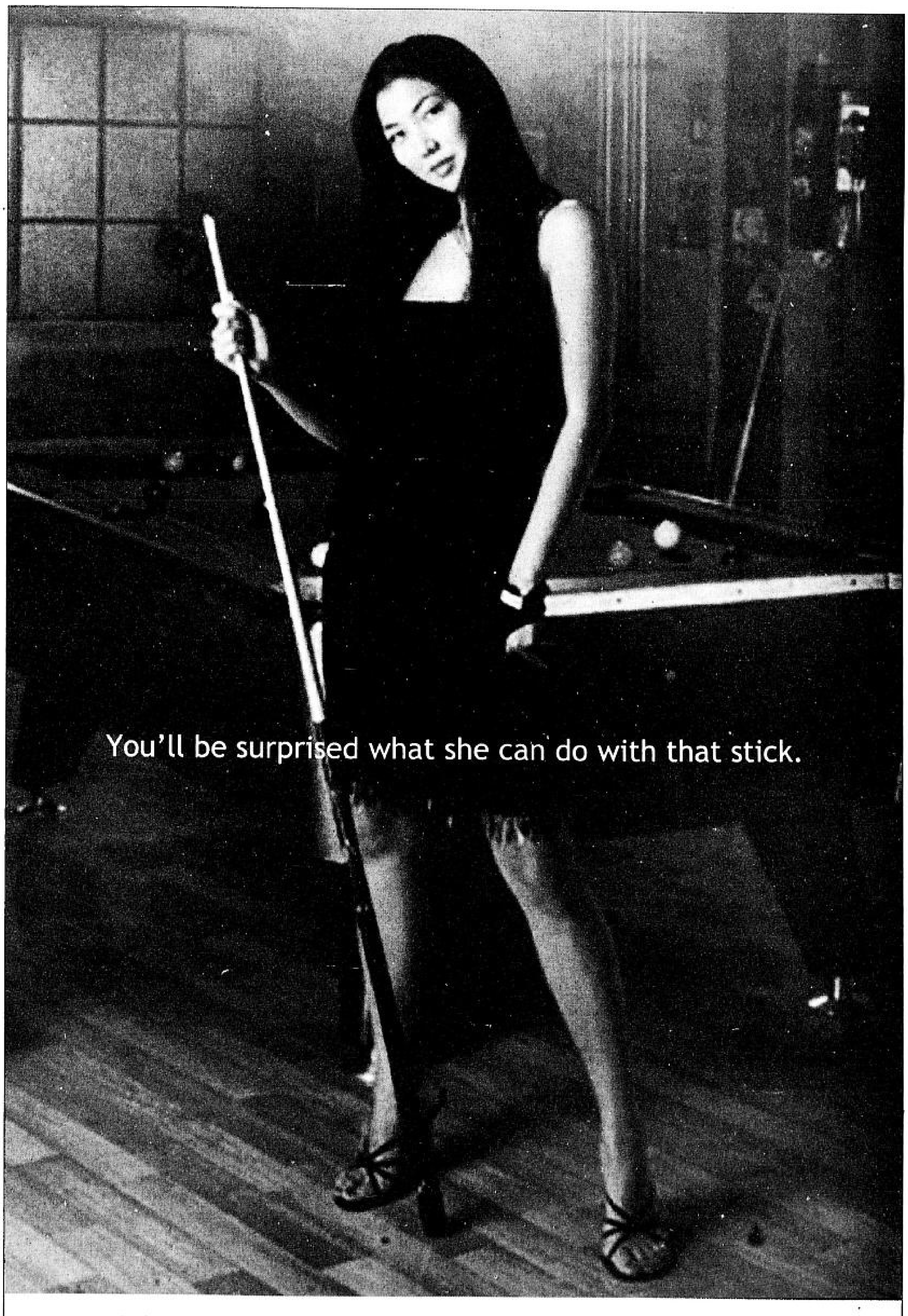
Romero arrived together with some businessman friends.

"I might invest in Palawan or probably buy a property here," he said.

The group will be shown around the province to see government projects in order for them to identify the projects that they are going to invest in.

Reyes said he personally attends to Romero.

"I volunteered to be his personal bodyguard to assure him that it is safe in Palawan," Reyes said.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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

# *Tracing roots church's reply to US-led war*

BY JOVELYN REYES
*Baguio City*

**IF you don't want war, start digging up your family roots. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has opened its largest genealogical library all over the world, including a branch in its church in Baguio City, to help people search for connections between races.**

The United States-based religious group's largest library, called the Genealogical Library, is located in Utah, the center of the Mormon religion.

"This is our way to (at least) prevent the possible making of the world into a war zone," Danilo Quinto, president of the Baguio Church of Latter Day Saints, said.

Ironically, the anti-war sentiment is being offered by this US-based religion, after US President George W. Bush declared his government's war against global terrorism.

Quinto said the genealogy test being conducted by the church in its Family History Center aims to trace the roots of every person to as far back as 1500.

A sample genealogical search by church personnel here traced one family root in Benguet to as far back as 1800 while another one traced her ancestors to as far back as 1300 using the church's genealogical library.

"How can you destroy a nation when you know your ancestors came from (a certain) nation... (or destroy) a person if you know your ancestors are related with that person?" Quinto said.

Through genealogy, he said, some of the country's most prominent personalities had traced their roots to other countries.

"Ancestors of former President Corazon Aquino and national hero Dr. Jose Rizal were both from China," he said.

Quinto said the test could prove that all people actually came from only one family tree.

"There's no reason for war if we know that we all came from one family," he said.

He said they have preserved public records and documented oral history in the country through microfilm.

Quinto said they have collected birth, baptismal, marriage and death records from different Philippine churches since the 1500s and have formed these as part of the data in their genealogical library.

"Offered as a free service to our city, visitors to the center can conduct research on their ancestors by using microfilmed records dating to as far back as the 1500s... At the center, well-trained family history consultants will be available to answer questions and help in guiding those who wish to research on their ancestors," a church information sheet said.

Quinto said copies of all genealogical microfilms in the world are preserved in the Utah Genealogical Library.

"We have a record of every Filipino regardless of age, sex and religion," he said.

In the Cordillera, at least 75 percent of public records, which were gathered only after World War II, are available in the center.

# 'Supok' lifts tourism hope in Lingayen Gulf

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
*Pangasinan*

**OPTIMISTIC that the whale sharks sighted in the Lingayen Gulf will become regular visitors, tourism officials hope to spawn a tourism industry here similar to the experience of Donsol, Sorsogon.**

Donsol, a seasonal feeding ground for whale sharks or *butanding*, has made the sea giants a tourism come-on, creating a booming tourism industry in the community.

The Philippine Tourism Authority hopes to duplicate the feat in the towns along the Lingayen Gulf.

Seven whale sharks, locally known as *supok*, were seen daily in the Lingayen Gulf from the last week of May to July this year.

They disappeared when Typhoon "Feria" struck the province, but two of them resurfaced on Aug. 28 and 29 in Bonuan beach in Dagupan City.

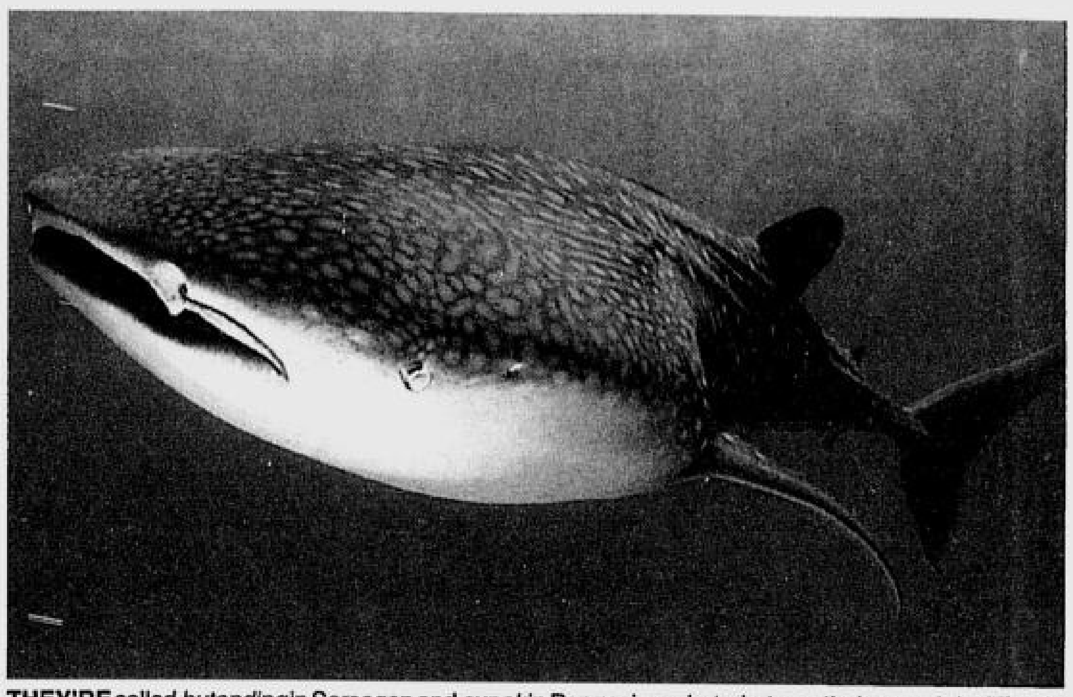
Jetro Lozada of the PTA said no one can be sure yet if the whale sharks will seasonally come to the gulf or their coming this year was an accident.

"But if they come back, are we prepared?" he asked during a symposium here last month. Present during the symposium were mayors and local officials from the coastal towns of Pangasinan and La Union facing the gulf.

The symposium sought to promote awareness among participants on issues relevant to whale shark nature and conservation, and to encourage appropriate tourism activities and development beneficial to the community.

Participants also raised concerns whether people along the Lingayen Gulf should welcome the whale sharks and not to harm them so they would stay in the gulf.

Mayor Joaquin Ostrea Jr. of Balaoan, La Union, said whale sharks are seen in the sea off the town's coastal villages but the villagers, however, are not aware of the need to conserve the endangered species.



**THEY'RE** called *butanding* in Sorsogon and *supok* in Pangasinan, but whatever their name is in different places, whale sharks don't fail to attract attention—the good and bad kind. FILE PHOTO/WWF

"One whale shark caught by a fishing net was stabbed by the fishermen in the area and it was too late for us to save it when we were informed about the incident," he said.

Last May, six whale sharks were disturbed after illegal fishermen threw homemade dynamites at them. But they were saved when shed owners immediately called the attention of the authorities to arrest the illegal fishermen.

The sea creatures were hence left alone, scouring the gulf for food and attracting visitors from different places.

"Perhaps the *supok* can help stop illegal fishing in the Lingayen Gulf because fishermen and the community folk will protect them from unscrupulous fishermen," Lozada said.

Dynamite fishing is rampant in the gulf.

Dan Torres of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said whale sharks, which are filter feeders, typically feed on plankton, krill, invertebrate larvae and a kind of anchovies not usually caught by fishermen.

"If a fish is found inside the whale shark's stomach, it is the fault of the fish because it swam into the whale shark's mouth and was thus swallowed," Torres said.

Torres showed a video of a whale shark swimming in the Honda Bay in Palawan with thousands of fish swimming beside it.

He cannot say, however, if the whale sharks attract the fish and why.

"Very little is known about the whale sharks. We do not know their courtship pattern, how and when they mate, how many are born every year, where they spawn or give birth, or where they go during off season," he said.

# AN INVITATION

Let us come together, brethren in the One True God, to bow our heads in prayer and beg the Almighty to send His peace into our hearts and those of our world leaders so that the evil of a global war may be averted.

*We humbly invite you to pray with us during the prayer rally for world peace on* ***October 24, 2001, 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.***

*Giving their best shot are the members and officers of Millennium Women for Peace and Development Foundation Inc., (MWPDFI). Seated front row, from left to right: Roselyn Magsaysay, Minerva A. de Leon, Justice Regina Benitez, Commissioner Bai Norhata M. Alonto. Dr. Zenaida Pangandaman-Gania, Norma Lozano. Standing from left to right: Alnahar Lazo, Bai Putri Zorayda Tamano, Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, Bai Jamila Tamano-Lucman, Bai Omera Dianalan-Lucman. Not included in the picture: Mercedes Cagas, Pery F. Arkoncel.*

ADVERSITY brings out the best in Filipinos.

This saying has been proven once again during the present spate of armed conflict in Mindanao, which started at the turn of century when the Philippine government decided to launch an offensive against rebel camps in the Southern Philippines, and continues up to this day.

With an all-out war policy further scorching the earth, rendering thousands of families homeless and hungry, their children becoming sick and malnourished, with whatever small access of education and health care suddenly severed, what is there to do for civic-minded women?

Mrs. Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, founder and guiding light of the Millennium Women for Peace and Development Foundation Inc. first conceived the idea that the correct action spells I-N-V-O-L-V-E-M-E-N-T. Gather like-minded members of the distaff side and sit down to draw a plan of action. Light a candle in the middle of darkness. Pray to God Almighty for deliverance but more than this, work resolutely in your own little way to uplift the national situation.

The idea struck Mrs. Pimentel while at the airport waiting for her flight from Cagayan de Oro City to Manila, and asking God for a sign, was immediately heard as Dr. Norma Sharif, director of the ARMM Commission on Higher Education(CHED) arrived for the same flight.

Mrs. Pimentel brought up to Dr. Sharif the idea of a prayer rally for peace and was met with enthusiastic support. Soon, the two women leaders were organizing the first of the three prayer rallies they were to sponsor - two in Mindanao and one in Makati City.

Attendance was more than encouraging during the first prayer rally in Butuan City/Cagayan de Oro City, and soon, the women organizers were talking about giving their group a formal organizational identity, leading to the birth of the Millennium Women for Peace and Development Foundation Inc.

It is the Foundation's vision to see the light of day for peaceful and progressive communities where Muslims and Christians co-exist and people are empowered to attain their fullest potentials.

The association seeks to prod people from areas of armed conflict to mobilize themselves and establish well-developed communities with concern for future generations. Towards this end, they plan to establish a pilot rehabilitation area as a model community for evacuees and victims of armed conflict. This would include productivity and self-reliance training for the people, livelihood opportunities, access to education and health services.

Mrs. Pimentel announced that the Foundation's housing program is now off to a good start, with the MWPDFI Village to rise on a one-hectare property in Barangay Maliwanag, Marawi City donated by the family of Bai Omera Lucman, now undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The group said the Maliwanag project will showcase the kind of community they perceive---one where Muslims and Christians will co-exist in a symbiotic relationship of peace and economic progress.

The Foundation once again implores the grace and blessings of God in their continuing Prayer for Peace activity, this time at the World Trade Center Building on Roxas Blvd. and Gil J. Puyat Ave., Pasay City, at 9 a.m. on October 24, 2001. The activity is very timely, considering the precarious state of world affairs obtaining these days, with the United States' war against terrorism in progress.

This prayer rally is expected to be joined by other groups who support the conviction that Muslims and Christians should not practice confrontational religious beliefs, but rather may implore God and Allah together for peace, tranquility, and goodwill to all men.

# Anthrax kills 2 US postal workers

(From page A1)

cials said they would expand testing to 36 post offices across the city that received mail from Brentwood, as investigators tried to pinpoint any other sites contaminated with anthrax.

And authorities said postal workers citywide should begin taking preventive antibiotics, with the number of people prescribed preventive antibiotics nearing 10,000 in Washington alone.

"Like other symbols of American freedom and power, the mail and our employees have become a target of terrorists," Postmaster General John Potter said. "We must take extraordinary steps to protect them both."

The bioterrorist toll pushed postal officials to set a meeting with experts at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider new precautions for postal workers across the country, including wearing gloves and masks as they handle mail.

### Serious form

Two postal workers have died—one Sunday, one Monday (US time)—and officials strongly suspect they were sick with inhalation anthrax, the most serious form of the disease. Another two men, already diagnosed, were in serious condition in a northern Virginia hospital.

There are now three confirmed cases of inhalation anthrax, with two more likely, plus six cases of the less serious skin form of the disease.

The anthrax scare hit Washington a week ago, with the arrival of a powder-filled letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle's office. No one on Capitol Hill has become ill, though more than 5,000 have been tested and office buildings remain closed.

Officials began tracing the letter back through the mail system and found anthrax in a Senate mail room. Moving one step back, they initially found none of the bacteria in an offsite congressional mail facility where mail goes through just before arriving in the Senate.

Based on these initial results, health experts concluded testing was not needed at the Brentwood facility, which handles most of the city's mail, including letters for Congress. Anthrax was later detected in the offsite facility, and over the weekend the first of the Brentwood workers checked into the hospital.

Postal Service officials defended the delay in the face of angry employees. "I think they moved quickly, as quickly as they could," Ridge said.

Many employees disagreed.

"They closed the House building down while we were in there inhaling it," said Abraham Odom of Oxen Hill, Maryland, who sorts small packages at the Brentwood facility. "That's not right. That's not fair. This stuff is supposed to be deadly."

### Capitol anthrax

Congressional leaders said the House and Senate would convene today, though their sprawling office buildings would remain closed. Several congressional sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said preliminary testing detected anthrax in three spots inside the domed Capitol building, possibly all in the same room.

It also remained unclear how enough anthrax escaped into the air of the Brentwood facility so that workers breathed it deep into their lungs, contracting the usually deadly inhalation form of the disease.

One possible explanation: Blowers used to clean postal machinery could have puffed lethal anthrax spores through the air. Potter said the Postal Service was revising its use of these machines. He also said bacteria-killing machines like those used to sanitize food were being purchased.

In New Jersey, the Federal Bureau of Investigation sought the source of at least three anthrax-tainted letters that went through a mail facility in the Trenton area.

Yesterday, authorities recommended preventive antibiotics for some 2,000 workers throughout the city's postal system, on top of more than 2,200 Brentwood workers already being tested and treated.

Despite a heightened sense of alarm, hospital officials in suburban Maryland said one of the two men who died had originally been sent home from the emergency room, only to return a little more than 24 hours later and succumb quickly to his disease.

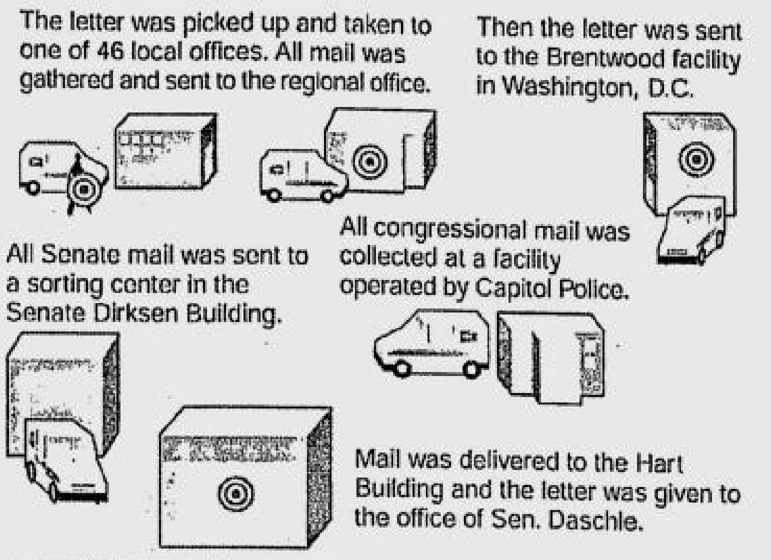
There was a palpable sense of anxiety as postal workers responded to urgent appeals and filed into D.C. General Hospital for nasal swab testing and antibiotic treatment.

"I can handle the dogs, I can see them coming," said Tony Jackson, a 21-year veteran of the Postal Service, referring to the roving mailman's most common threat. "(But) I don't know what's happening here. I work in that building, on that workroom floor, breathing that same dusty air." *AP*

## Trail of a poisoned letter

Last week a letter containing anthrax was sent from Trenton, N.J., to the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, possibly contaminating other mail along the way. Heres a look at the letters trail.

◎ **Indicates person(s) exposed**



The letter was picked up and taken to one of 46 local offices. All mail was gathered and sent to the regional office.

Then the letter was sent to the Brentwood facility in Washington, D.C.

All congressional mail was collected at a facility operated by Capitol Police.

All Senate mail was sent to a sorting center in the Senate Dirksen Building.

Mail was delivered to the Hart Building and the letter was given to the office of Sen. Daschle.

*SOURCE: Associated Press*

AP

# Psycho terrorism victims up after Sept. 11 attacks in US

(From page A1)

Dory G., a 17-year-old college freshman in a Quezon City university, is very anxious. She stays in a dormitory while her family resides in Mindanao, not far from where the Abu Sayyaf band has been wreaking havoc. She's worried for both herself and her family. She has read a lot about biological warfare and keeps thinking about it day and night.

She was recently rushed for the second time to a hospital for stiffening of the extremities, which her dorm mates thought was an epileptic attack.

The physician diagnosed it as a hysterical reaction, a form of psychosomatic reaction.

Godofredo D. is a 70-year-old retired military officer who fought countless battles during his illustrious career. But he never felt as anxious as today. He bought surplus protective masks for his family that cost almost P20,000 for a set of five pieces.

A week ago, he opened a letter containing promotional materials and he started feeling a tingling sensation with itchiness all over his body. Fearing it might be due to anthrax infection, he immediately went to his physician, who didn't think it was anthrax but just the same gave Mang Godo amoxycillin to give him peace of mind.

Jay, Dory and Mang Godo are just three of the countless individuals who are gripped in fear and are manifesting it in different ways—from general anxiety symptoms to paranoia.

### Symptoms of PSD

Medical experts call this psychosomatic disorder, or PSD.

PSD manifests itself through such symptoms as headache, dizziness, feverish sensation, stomach problems (vomiting, diarrhea or abdominal pain), skin problems, palpitations, chest pains and sleep disturbances.

In some individuals, the prolonged stress and anxiety can cause actual medical problems, such as blood pressure elevation, development of stomach or duodenal ulcers, or some skin problems.

According to Dr. Paul Lee, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, the number of patients seeking consultation for various psychosomatic problems has significantly increased since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

### Expressing fear

Psychologists believe that global conflicts can render an entire population emotionally charged. The ambient anxiety, which is the atmosphere of free-floating tension, can affect almost everyone, children and adults alike.

"These psychosomatic symptoms are actually some people's way to express their fear," Lee said.

The mind is so powerful that it can influence biological processes in the body. The fear becomes so real in one's mind that the body starts to translate it into somatic or physical manifestations in his body.

This accounts for the itchiness or feverish sensation that people felt when they learned they were exposed to materials suspected to be infected with the anthrax bacilli.

"They were not feigning the symptoms. They actually felt them because of the strong suggestion coming from their minds. But once they were assured that it was a false alarm, most of them spontaneously felt well," explained Lee.

### Danger to oneself

Dr. Ilana Singer, a psychologist and author of the book "Emotional Recovery After Disasters: How to Get Back to Normal Life," warns that mentally and emotionally traumatized people can be a danger to themselves and usually find difficulty responding to the prevailing ambient anxiety.

Singer adds that stress overload makes us unreliable and thus predisposed to bad decisions and even accidents because we don't pay attention to whatever we're doing, such as driving or cooking.

"Detecting when you're swept up by ambient anxiety may help save your life and protect your loved ones. If you're confused, dreamy or fatigued, treat yourself as if you've got the flu. Stay home," advised Singer.

The following telltale signs and symptoms suggest stress overload:

- Failure to perform usual daily activities.
- Unusual irritability and sensitivity.
- Nightmares and fitful sleep.
- Extreme absent-mindedness.
- Irrational decisions, such as spending the entire family savings to buy sophisticated protective masks.
- Various psychosomatic symptoms, the most common of which are lightheadedness, stomach aches and headaches.

"When one shows these signs and symptoms, this may be labeled as unhealthy stress and it has to be resolved before it causes serious diseases and long-lasting psychological disturbances in the individual," said Lee.

The professor said the severity might range from mild incapacitating symptoms, or feeling somewhat "off or out-of-sync," to severe disabling disorders which may already be labeled as psychosis, where the patient is no longer in touch with reality.

In between are patients who may not be "out of touch" but have become dysfunctional just the same, no longer able to perform their daily tasks.

### Resolve fears

Lee explained that it was essential to resolve these psychosomatic conflicts as early as possible, especially in children, to prevent long-lasting psychological scars. Children can't express themselves as well as adults, hence they tend to internalize whatever mental or emotional trauma they experience.

If the conflicts are left unresolved, these children may eventually develop later in life severe psychiatric problems such as personality disorders, difficulty adjusting to stressful situations and inability relating with people.

Although adults, especially the elderly, may not have severe residual psychological impact as children and adolescents, they may also be vulnerable and may suffer from recurrent problems.

This may be in the form of nightmares, other sleeping disorders and bothersome symptoms such as ulcers, high blood pressure and eating disorders.

In most instances, counseling and reassurance are all that are needed to manage the patient with psychosomatic problems. They are told how to harness their powerful auto-suggestive powers to their benefit. Daily meditation exercises of 5-10 minutes can also help PSD patients.

In some cases, anti-anxiety drugs may be prescribed. For more severe cases, anti-psychotic drugs and anti-depressants may be needed.

In times like these, there is a tendency to be overwhelmed by a lot of stressful news and events but one should not make it harder on himself by magnifying these negative thoughts in his mind.

As psychologists would advise us, "We are what we feed our mind."

*(Editor's note: Dr. Castillo is chair of the Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. His column "Medical Files" appears every Saturday in the INQUIRER's Science/Health section.)*

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# Coup rumors persist

(From page A1)

stabilization plot.

"Those are rumors. It's always like that. They have to check this out. And the finding is that these are still rumors," Tiglao said.

Ms Macapagal's early arrival in Manila gave rise to speculations that she cut short her trip because of the coup rumors.

"There's nothing extraordinary. Even (US President George W.) Bush went home early. The President does not have any (official) meetings (in Shanghai) anymore so why waste time," Tiglao said. The President was supposedly due in Manila at 11:30 a.m. Monday, not 2 a.m.

But a source said the President and Reyes discussed threats of a planned power grab by parties involving "some of the players in Edsa II."

The source said the plot, which seeks to put up a civilian-military junta, "has been moved."

"Here's a clue: You can still have a New Year's celebration," the source said.

Before the President left for Shanghai last week, there was talk of another plot dubbed "Black October," allegedly led by the opposition.

### Wag the dog

Remulla said a new destabilization plot was "one of those 'wagging the dog's tail' approaches adopted by Malacañang to resuscitate the people's support for the Macapagal administration."

Remulla, assistant secretary for legal affairs of the previous administration, said PMP sources in military and police camps revealed that he and other supporters of the opposition had been placed on the "shortlist" of persons to be arrested for the terrorist activities.

The others include Lito Banayo, former Philippine Tourism Authority director, and Ninez Cacho-Olivarez, Daily Tribune publisher.

"But integral to the plan is to portray Berroya as the new 'savior' of democracy to justify his being named new chief of the PNP when Director General Leandro Mendoza retires from his post in January," Remulla said.

He said the plan had already started. He said it began last Thursday when armed men robbed a van carrying more than P3 million worth of cellular phones and phone cards.

"It also resulted in the killing of the van's driver," Remulla said.

"PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Cris Maralit is familiar with the plot but he has decided to just keep silent in the hope of being rewarded," he said.

Destabilization efforts in the media have also begun when a reporter covering Camp Crame wrote about the alleged destabilization attempts by unnamed members of the opposition against the Macapagal administration, according to Remulla.

The reporter has also been tasked with writing and circulating a white paper, detailing the plot code-named Black October.

### Ramos to quell coup

Former President Fidel V. Ramos said he would help quell any extra-constitutional attempt at taking over the Macapagal administration.

"I would be here to stop (the coup d'etat)," Ramos said at a news conference at the Naia before leaving for Hong Kong to speak before chief executive officers and managing directors of multinational firms in the Asia-Pacific.

"If there is a brewing coup d'etat, I would not be leaving for Hong Kong," said Ramos, a former Armed Forces chief of staff and defense secretary who weathered several coup attempts against then President Corazon Aquino.

Talks of a coup have been fanned by the continuing disaffection of certain "civil society" groups with the Macapagal administration. Some of these groups played key roles in People Power II that ousted Estrada.

Recently, the People's Consultative Assembly gave the President 30 days to clean up her administration of grafters or else it would withdraw support from her.

PCA secretary general Linda Olaguer-Montayre had demanded, among others, the firing of several appointees closely identified with the First Gentleman.

Tiglao said that Montayre did not represent the entire PCA.

Tiglao virtually dared Montayre to make good her threat to withdraw the PCA support from the Macapagal administration.

"Personally I think that if anybody gives a deadline on bad faith, she should carry it out immediately and not wait for 30 days," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said one of the PCA's demands, poverty alleviation, was in fact the lynchpin of the Macapagal administration's program.

He said government appointees doing well could not just be fired simply because they were identified with the First Gentleman.

# US jets attack Bin Laden's base

(From page A1)

Salik said the jets struck at Uzbashi, an al-Qaida stronghold near the alliance-held Bagram air base.

In Uzbekistan, another opposition spokesperson, Ibrahim Ghafoori, said American planes were attacking Taliban positions around Mazar-e-Sharif, which the rebels have been trying to recapture since they lost it in 1998.

Ghafoori said opposition fighters advanced 10-15 km toward Mazar-e-Sharif in brisk fighting Monday and Tuesday.

"We expect US strikes to hit the frontlines, but they're not," Ghafoori complained.

Opposition patrols had moved closer to Mazar-e-Sharif last week but were pushed back by a strong Taliban counterattack.

Despite the air strikes, Taliban fighters along the Kabul front were holding their ground Tuesday, responding with rockets and mortars toward frontline positions of the outnumbered and outgunned Northern Alliance.

One rocket slammed into the bazaar at Charikar, 50 km north of Kabul, killing two people including a 60-year-old vegetable vendor.

"We want the war to be finished, and an end to the rockets of the Taliban," said Mohammad Nabi, whose son was lightly injured by the rocket in Charikar. "Let America bomb them."

### Gripes

An alliance commander, Gen. Baba Jan, complained that the Americans were not coordinating air strikes with his own ground forces but added "I expect there will be" better coordination soon.

In Washington, an envoy for the Northern Alliance insisted the US strikes, particularly on the Taliban frontline in Kabul, weren't enough to let the alliance launch an offensive.

"A lot more of it is needed for us to make ground moves," Haroon Amin said.

US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, however, denied suggestions that Washington had held back on bombing the Kabul frontline out of fear that opposition fighters would capture the capital before a viable, multi-ethnic government was in place to replace the Taliban.

There was also little progress in the formation of an alternative, post-Taliban government.

Pakistan had been urging the United States to restrain the Northern Alliance—a fractious coalition made up mostly of minority Tajiks and Uzbeks.

Pakistan has argued that the Pashtun majority, which forms the core of the Taliban, will never accept the coalition.

Opposition figures have also been widely discredited by the brutal infighting that marked their four-year rule. Battles among opposition groups left an estimated 50,000 of Kabul's people dead until the Taliban ousted the alliance from the capital in 1996.

**AN AFGHAN** carries a sack of wheat from a United Nations' warehouse in Peshawar, Pakistan. REUTERS

### Kandahar

In Kandahar, the South Asian Dispatch Agency reported US jets struck an oil depot and a fuel convoy, sending a thick cloud of black smoke rising into the clear blue sky.

US planes also targeted an asphalt plant, setting back Taliban efforts to repair the runway at Kandahar airport that had been pounded repeatedly during the air campaign, the agency said.

The agency also reported that US jets late Monday bombed a mountain on the western outskirts of Kandahar where Taliban troops were trying to repair a radar station that had been heavily damaged earlier in the air campaign.

Despite the stepped up attacks, the Northern Alliance has been unable to score major gains on the ground.

The failure of the alliance to advance on the cities could step up pressure on the United States to accelerate military operations before the Islamic holy month of Ramadan begins in mid-November.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, a key US ally in the anti-terror campaign, has warned of a backlash in the Muslim world if the campaign continues at a high pace during Ramadan.

"One would hope and wish that this campaign comes to an end before the month of Ramadan, and one would hope for restraint during the month of Ramadan," Musharraf said Monday on CNN's "Larry King Live."

Musharraf has been struggling to contain Muslim anger in his own country over the US campaign as well as his decision to allow the United States to use three military bases in Pakistan to support the Afghan attacks.

### Jacobabad

On Tuesday, police bolstered security in the southern city of Jacobabad to block Islamic parties' threats to seize one of the bases used by the Americans. Heavily armed police, soldiers and paramilitary troops patrolled the city, arresting protesters who managed to slip past barricades.

US leaders insist the campaign is a war against terrorists, not Islam, and say they are trying to minimize civilian casualties.

Nevertheless, the attacks, especially those in Kandahar, have sent tens of thousands of Afghans fleeing for the safety of neighboring countries, even though they have sealed their borders against them.

Pakistan on Tuesday announced it would send Afghan refugees who entered the country illegally back to camps being set up by the United Nations and the Taliban inside Afghanistan.

UN officials agreed to supply tents for the camp, but appealed again for Pakistan and other countries to admit the refugees. *Reports from AP and AFP*

# Was Erap's favored engineer kidnapped?

(From page A1)

terday on just how the former Region 4 director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, Romeo Panganiban, was kidnapped, if at all, on Sunday night. Or was it Monday?

One report said Panganiban was aboard his red Toyota Rav 4 sports vehicle in front of a cockpit in Sta. Cruz, Laguna when armed men forced him to come with them. It was reported that his kidnappers asked for a P100 million ransom.

Another said he was snatched either in Parañaque or Muntinlupa.

Reyes has a house in Sta. Cruz, Laguna and another in Ayala-Alabang.

The Philippine National Police in Laguna earlier reported that Panganiban left Sta. Cruz for Alabang, Muntinlupa City, on board a Rav 4 without a plate number.

PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, said Panganiban's family had not filed any report about his alleged kidnapping.

Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes Jr., Southern Tagalog police chief, seconded this in a radio interview.

While the police was, as Reyes put it, "looking at all angles," including the New People's Army as suspects, Panganiban was found "safe and sound," according to his brother, Dennis Panganiban, mayor of Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Mayor Panganiban told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview yesterday that his missing brother had communicated with him and his family to tell them that he was in the "finest shape" and there was nothing to worry about.

### Who wants to be a millionaire?

Had he been kidnapped, Panganiban could well afford his ransom, if allegations about his ill-gotten wealth were to be believed.

Soft spoken and stylish, Panganiban at 54 years old, comes across as a regular guy with a penchant for leather jackets and simple talk. But his detractors and DPWH insiders say his looks could be deceiving.

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson tagged Panganiban as the DPWH official who "burdened" some contractors with the expenses and materials for the renovation and construction of the century-old ancestral home of Estrada in Pagsanjan, Laguna. Panganiban had denied this.

He is reported to have amassed wealth, mostly property and luxury cars, from the time he served as district engineer of Quezon City in 1991.

From district engineer of Quezon City, Panganiban was promoted regional director for Region IV-A under Estrada in March last year, bypassing more senior officials.

A complaint against Panganiban filed in the Ombudsman by a former Laguna mayor presented a portrait of a public works official who's living it up with BMWs and Porsches in garage, and who plays host to mediamen in his private resort in Lake Caliraya where he keeps speedboats and jetskis.

There's another case in the Ombudsman in which Panganiban is alleged to have faked his college records at the National University.

Enrique Bautista, former mayor of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, who lost to Panganiban's brother in the last election, had asked the Ombudsman to conduct a lifestyle check on Panganiban. In 1999,Panganiban was among the DPWH officials subjected to a lifestyle investigation by the Ombudsman amid reports that regional directors, district engineers and their assistants had become millionaires overnight. By then Panganiban was already an overstaying district engineer in Quezon City.

After Edsa II, Panganiban was removed from his post and is now on a floating status.

Bautista's complaint was forwarded to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's office by Datu Mangacop Umpa Saud Al Hadj, chair of the Mindanao Anti-Crime and Peace Council Foundation.

In his complaint, Bautista alleged that among the properties acquired by Panganiban were a luxurious residence with a covered tennis court in Barangay Callos, Sta. Cruz, Laguna; a commercial four-story building on Regidor St., Sta. Cruz; four residential lots in Barangay Bubukal, Sta. Cruz; a modern cockpit, Argem Coliseum, costing P40 million in Barangay Bubukal.

He also owns, according to Bautista, a bakery in Pagsanjan bought for P2 million; a private resort in Lake Caliraya named Blue Waters; a lanzones plantation with resthouse in San Pablo City; a house in Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque; a villa at UP Los Baños; a new house at Ayala, Alabang; a newly bought 2-hectare riceland in Barangay Catid, Sta. Cruz; and a Petron gasoline station on Barangay Callos, Sta. Cruz.

Panganiban also allegedly owned a BMW sportscar, a Porsche, a Mercedes Benz, five Toyotas, two Hondas, seven Mitsubishis, a Mazda 626, and a 1999 Volkswagen. His watercraft, according to Bautista, include a "powerful" speedboat and two jetskis.

"The hull of one of these jetskis was punctured when it was used by one lady TV announcer," Bautista said.

### Fake records

Panganiban is still facing a pending complaint in the Ombudsman filed by one Filipina Romana, a resident of Luisiana, Laguna, for alleged falsification of his college records at the National University between 1965 and 1974 which he submitted to the Cagayan de Oro College where he transferred and graduated.

Described as excellent in PR, some contractors said Panganiban has been able to maintain the right connections to Malacañang under Estrada and in the present administration with the help of friends in high places.

In his personnel data sheet, Panganiban listed as his references former Laguna Gov. and now Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., former Speaker and now Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, and Rep. Rodolfo San Luis.

Panganiban was accused by Bautista of transporting some rallyists to the pro-Estrada protests at the Edsa Shrine in April. He also allegedly provided food for Estrada supporters who attended a Puwersa ng Masa rally in Laguna during the campaign for the election last May.

### To Bicol buts

An INQUIRER source said Panganiban had been able to defer his transfer to Bicol despite a signed order from Malacañang with the help of Belmonte and congressmen for whom he undertook pork barrel projects.

Belmonte was accused by DPWH Undersecretary Eduardo Mir in 1999 of blocking Panganiban's reshuffle from the Quezon City district office. Panganiban undertook most of Belmonte's pork barrel-funded projects.

As regional director, Panganiban was responsible for the department's engineering projects in the provinces of Laguna, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Quezon and Aurora. He is a native of Barangay Callos, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

In a dinner with radio commentators arranged by a Southern Luzon congressman sometime in July, Panganiban appealed for a "ceasefire" on media attacks against him as his position was then being threatened by an impending transfer to Bicol.

"All I want is peace of mind," Panganiban said in Filipino.

The congressman said Panganiban was concerned that negative reports and commentaries particularly on radio would hound him after his transfer to a far flung assignment from where he would not be able to reply to criticisms.

A close aide of DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong said that even in Bicol, there was strong opposition against Panganiban's transfer there. This was confirmed by Datumanong in an earlier interview but he did not elaborate.

The INQUIRER also learned that Sen. Joker Arroyo, who's a Bicolano, has been lobbying for the retention of the present DPWH regional director there.

# US counter-terror team now in Zambo

(From page A1)

Three of the six emerged later and, apparently amused, approached an Italian-made OV-10 plane. The plane is one of a number classified as trainer aircraft but actually used in military bombing operations.

Noting the Americans' amusement, Cimatu said in Filipino: "Maybe tomorrow they will just take a ship going to Basilan."

Cimatu said the US coordinators would meet on Friday with Filipino soldiers in Basilan, to see where the United States could assist in the battle against the Abu Sayyaf.

"This is why my directive to our field commanders is to just continue the military operation, show them our professionalism in the operation, and pretend as if they were not at our back, poking their heads in," he said.

As for the needs of the Philippine military, Cimatu said there was no need for him to 'verbalize' the sort of equipment required.

"These experts are very observant and keen on the needed fighting capabilities of the Filipino soldiers. So even before they came here, they already had some observations," he said.

Among the things the AFP wants to acquire are helicopters and equipment for surveillance and night fighting.

"These are just a few things contained in our wish list," Cimatu said.

### Hush-hush

Malacañang is suddenly hush-hush on the extent of the activities of the US counter-terrorism team.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said at a press briefing yesterday that it would be "better" if government and military officials desisted from talking about the matter.

Tiglao frowned on questions about the whereabouts and activities of the US team.

"We prefer not to give details because this is a military (operation)," he said, adding:

"It's better if we don't discuss these things."

It was actually National Security Adviser Roilo Golez who had announced that a team of US counter-terrorism experts would arrive to provide training and equipment to assist their Filipino counterparts in fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

But he refused to say when the team would arrive and where it would land.

Media organizations only found out on Friday when the US Embassy informed airport officials that American military officers would be arriving that night.

Since then, Philippine defense and military officials had taken pains to explain that the Americans would not participate in combat operations.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the Americans would conduct a dialogue with their counterparts here to find out how the US military could help fight domestic terrorist groups.

Golez, on the other hand, said the US experts would rate the performance of a special unit whom they trained and especially equipped to fight the Abu Sayyaf.

In a report, The Associated Press quoted US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley as saying that the American soldiers who arrived last week met with some Filipino authorities in Manila over the weekend.

She said she did not immediately know what branch of the military the US soldiers were from.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said the delegation was headed by a colonel and would be briefed on guerrilla movements throughout the country.

"They're here in headquarters for a series of briefings on the terrorist situation," Villanueva said.

### 34 dead

The Abu Sayyaf, which US authorities had linked to prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden, is holding hostage American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and at least 10 Filipinos.

Clashes between government troops and the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and the nearby island of Jolo have killed at least 33 bandits and a soldier since Sunday, the AP quoted Cimatu as saying.

"This will be a relentless operation," Cimatu said.

In a radio interview, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the visiting Americans were "experts in different fields ranging from civil-military operations to psy-ops (psychological operations)."

He said they were in the country "to study our planning, operations and equipment in our counter-terrorism campaign." *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil in Manila; AP; AFP*

# CMMA honors . . .

(From page A1)

Tonight, at the Henry Lee Irwin theater in Ateneo de Manila, the CMMA adds more names to its honor roll. A total of 186 finalists vie for 41 categories in one of the country's most prestigious awards program.

Jaime Cardinal Sin, the prelate who preached "critical collaboration" during the Marcos years and then shepherded two "people power" movements, set up the CMMA to pay tribute to "media's trade, their industry and their service to the people." The awards honor notable examples of mass media work for both technical excellence and the portrayal of human values. The categories range across almost all forms of mass media—including movies, TV and radio programs, newspapers, advertisements and comic strips.

This year also includes for the first time a student version of the CMMA, with seven prizes at stake.

### INQUIRER nominees

The INQUIRER has 11 finalists, reflecting its traditional strengths in reportage, opinion, photography and feature writing.

Its coverage of two pivotal events in recent Philippine history, People Power II and the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada, earned separate nominations for Best News Coverage.

Senior reporter Jerry Esplanada is twice a finalist for Best Investigative Report. "Who Rules RP Skies?" probes the adverse impact of alleged government over-protection of Philippine Airlines, owned by the controversial tycoon Lucio Tan. "Mega Deal: Velarde Firm" explores a controversial land deal involving a company owned by El Shaddai Movement founder Mike Velarde.

Edwin Bacasmas also received two finalist nominations, for Best News Photograph, while Jess Yuson received one. Bacasmas was cited for his photos of an anti-Estrada rally and the reunion of ex-hostage Maj. Noel Buan and his family. Yuson was nominated for his photo entitled 'Pimentel Votes Yes!"

Inquirer columnist Randy David was nominated for Best Opinion Column, for his "Letter to a Granddaughter," while Mozart T. Pastrano made it to the finals of the Best Special Feature category for "The Mamanwas Wake Up to the 21st Century."

The Inquirer also received two nominations for Best Print Ad—Branded, for "Dilis" (by McCann-Erickson Phils.) and "Danica" (by Harrison Communications).

Inq7, the paper's joint venture with GMA-7, is one of six finalists for Best Website.

### Famous, obscure

Some of the finalists are well-known, such as the movie box office hit, "Tanging Yaman." Others have labored in the vineyards of obscurity, such as "Anak ...Gabay Mo," an educational radio program of the Don Bosco Technical College Young Broadcasters Club. But famous or not, the finalists were chosen by respective industry experts because they "further the potential of mass media in promoting genuine Christian values, which include love for God, life and truth, respect for the environment, and the advancement of positive Filipino values."

Cardinal Sin sees the awards as beneficial to both the producers and consumers of mass media. "The CMMA is intended for the protection and benefit not only of the faithful or each man of good will, but also of all those who are involved in mass media. It aims to explore in a truthful manner the social, cultural, as well as the moral and pastoral concerns and realities arising from the influence of mass media."

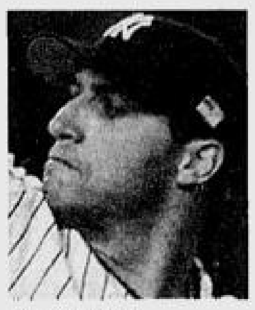
Probe Productions' Cheche Lazaro took the award as a challenge to be more responsible in her craft. "We had to live up to it. I guess we had to be worthy of the award. We don't want people to say that we don't deserve the award. I guess the bottom line for any award is you want to deserve it."

"What makes the CMMA different was that it was given to us by a group that was independent from media. And then of course, it was given by the Catholic Church, which has a different set of parameters. Not (actually) different—the same but unique because there are certain values that they espouse. They want excellence not only in the craft but also in the kind of message that you are sending out," said Lazaro, whose Probe Team was elevated to the CMMA Hall of Fame last year.

Ruel de Vera, associate editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, felt that the CMMA brought with it a high level of accountability. "I am very strict now with my work, there's no place for mediocrity. When I settle down to write a piece, it has to be of the highest quality," he said. De Vera won the CMMA last year for Best Special Feature.

## 38TH AL PENNANT

# Yankees dynasty rolls on



PETTITTE

NEW YORK—The New York Yankees' dynasty rolled on Monday as the Yankees reached their fifth World Series in six years and the Seattle Mariners' dream season came to an end.

Andy Pettitte was masterful before tiring in the seventh, and Bernie Williams, Paul O'Neill and Tino Martinez homered as the three-time defending World Series champions closed out their American League Championship Series against the record-setting Mariners with a 12-3 rout in game five of the best-of-seven series.

The Yankees clinched their 38th American League pennant and became the first team since the advent of Division Play in 1969 to win four straight League Championship Series.

En route to earning a shot at the Arizona Diamondbacks and a fourth straight World Series title, New York made history by rallying to defeat the Oakland Athletics in the Division Series.

The Yankees then soundly defeated the Mariners, who had tied a major league record with 116 wins in the regular season.

After capturing both games in Seattle, the Yankees were blown out in Game Three on Saturday before rebounding Sunday on a ninth-inning homer from rookie Alfonso Soriano. But Monday's clincher belonged to three players that have been at the core of the latest Yankees' dynasty.

Pettitte (2-1), who also got the victory in Game One and was named Most Valuable Player of the series, took a shutout into the seventh. He allowed three runs and eight hits in 6-1/3 innings for his second win in as many starts this series. The 29-year-old lefthander improved to 10-5 lifetime in the postseason — 5-1 in ALCS play, but said his teammates were the key on Monday.

"I don't know how I won this," he said as he was presented with the MVP award. "I was making bad pitches tonight, the defense really helped me out. Obviously, we got a lot of runs tonight."

Williams made sure Pettitte had plenty of room for error by capping a four-run third inning with his 16th career postseason homer and third in as many games. The two-run shot off starter Aaron Sele gave New York a 4-0 lead.

With the win the Yankees avoided a return trip to Seattle — a journey Mariners manager Lou Piniella guaranteed after Game Two.

Game One of the World Series is slated for Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix. The Diamondbacks, who clinched their series Sunday, are expected to start Curt Schilling while New York has a number of ways it could set its rotation. *AFP*

## *Tennis veeps call for Andrada ouster*

BY MARC REYES

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association is in disarray.

That is the claim of at least nine Philta regional vice presidents who called for the ouster of Philta president Buddy Andrada, whom they blame for the downward spiral of Philippine tennis which reached new depth during the recent Southeast Asian Games.

But Andrada remained unfazed with the brewing unrest, which he didn't deny either. In fact, he challenged the dissatisfied RVPs to run for Philta presidency in 2003. Andrada's term ends on Dec. 31, 2002.

"We have a solid development program going on all year. Maybe we are the only sports association with that kind of timetable," Andrada told the INQUIRER. "And that is in spite of the fact that corporate sponsors are very hard to find."

But the regional directors claimed otherwise. And though there are only nine confirmed defections, the rest are reportedly planning to switch allegiance and establish a new Philta, which would correct the mistakes of Andrada's 14-year reign in the association.

The Philippines, which got only two bronzes during the recent SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, used to lord it over the region when, during the 1991 SEAG, the country won three of seven gold medals at stake through the heroics of Felix Barrientos, Roland So and Jennifer Saberon.

The RVPs' group leader Jovy Mamawal, who is also the founder of the Children's Tennis Workshop and a proponent of age-group tennis in the country, said Andrada has no serious development program, causing the stagnation of Philippine tennis.

The group also lamented Andrada's penchant for running after Fil-American players instead of seeking homegrown talents through the regional inter-club competitions, which were scrapped years ago.

But Andrada said: "It all boils down to economics. Our homegrown athletes are leaving the country to pursue tennis scholarships in the United States." He denied focusing on hiring dollar-salaried Fil-Americans.

Instead, he cited Maricris Fernandez, Dante Sta. Cruz and Raj Jacutin, who all quit from the national team to pursue studies in the States. However, Mamawal said Jacutin is not even studying.

Moreover, Mamawal stressed that the country's No. 1 player, Johnny Arcilla, is still in the Philippines and yet he doesn't get enough Philta support. Arcilla has no plans of going to the US for scholarships, said Mamawal.

# SLR wants case settled

**Games today: (Philsports)**
5:05 p.m. – Shell vs Tanduay
7:10 p.m. – Red Bull vs Ginebra

BY CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

THE STA. LUCIA Realty management wants an out-of-court settlement of the criminal charges against controversial import Damian Owens, according to a ranking Makati police officer.

Team manager Buddy Encarnado yesterday phoned the Makati police station and attempted to "negotiate," claiming that the case against Owens was "not such a big deal," said Insp. Romeo Ramos, chief of the Makati police homicide division.

Ramos said Encarnado phoned him yesterday morning and explained that the second-time import was a "good guy" and that he did not mean to touch the hand and buttocks of Colette Glazer, 20, a Binibining Pilipinas-International titleholder in 1998, at Where Else Disco last Oct. 11.

Glazer on Monday sued Owens for alleged acts of lasciviousness, days after her friend, Vicente Jose Campa, 24, filed physical injuries charges against the import for an altercation in the same disco also last Oct. 11.

"He told me that Owens didn't mean to do it and that other imports had done much worse things in discos," Ramos told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

At press time, authorities were waiting for the original copy of Campa's medical certificate so they could file the cases against Owens.

# Larry Mumar is dead

MUMAR

PHILIPPINE basketball lost one of its colorful stars with the death yesterday of Lawrence Mumar, a former national player and standout in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Mumar, 54, passed away in Cebu City.

A son of basketball great Lauro "The Fox" Mumar who skippered the RP national team to a third-place finish in the 1954 World Basketball Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Lawrence reportedly succumbed to lung cancer.

His close friend Johnny Revilla told the INQUIRER that, as part of his wish, Mumar's remains would be cremated immediately.

Mumar reportedly left Manila for Cebu, where he stayed with a friend, after he discovered some three months ago that he was sick.

Mumar was formerly married to actress Connie Reyes with whom he had two children, Lawrence Anthony and Karla.

Mumar was a member of the Philippine national basketball team that finished second in the 1969 Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship in Bangkok.

He first drew attention as a lean but foxy star of the University of Sto. Tomas in the UAAP. He became a full-fledged basketball celebrity with his memorable stints with both the Meralco and U-Tex teams in local commercial circuits like the Micaa and the PBA.

# PSC ...

(From page A22)

Tuason was even more concerned with the planned revival of the Palarong Pambansa, which was transformed to the PSC under RA 9155. They believe that the Palaro is very crucial in talent search especially those who will carry the country's colors in the 2005 SEAG the country will host.

The annual Palaro, Tuason said, is a winning formula and the government must realize its far reaching-effects to both youth and sports development.

At least P60 million is needed for the regional elimination and another P40 million for the Palaro proper.

---

**MBA today**
**(Tinga Gym)**
3 p.m.—Davao vs Socsargen
**(Cebu Coliseum)**
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Cebu

# Shultz, Yangco sparkle

MARK Steven Shultz bested a banner field of 148 to rule the bicycle stunts (park) category while Rogelio Yangco nipped Noel Coscedo for the aggressive-inline skating crown in the Main X division of the ESPN Asian XTour Manila Sunday.

Shultz wowed the crowd and gained the nod of the judges with his breathtaking stunts, winning the gold in the premier event with an average score of 86 to lead the cast in the Asian X Games Qualifier IV in Malaysia next year. He beat Jorge Baquir, who had 84.75 for silver while Laurence Davila settled for bronze.

In the aggressive-inline skating category of Main X, Yangco nipped Coscedo by the slimmest of margins 1.5 points, as the former put in a solid 230 average score. Coscedo settled for second while Benjie Estanislao took third place honors with 210.5 points.

Luigi Alamazong led the winners in the Junior X division, ruling the bicycle stunts (park) with an impressive average score of 230, highlighted by a spectacular backflip that drew cheers from the crowd which braved heavy rains to watch the event at the Goldcrest Parking Center at the Glorietta Mall in Makati.

# Asga meet ready

A TOTAL of 72 teams are seeing action in the inaugural Asga Cup, a member-guest event staged by the Alabang Senior Golfers Association, starting tomorrow (Thursday, Oct. 25) at the Alabang Country Club course.

Sponsors of the golf include Fortune Tobacco, Asga member Haji Tabusalla of Indonesia, Hans Brumann of Brumann Jewelers, Volvo Cars, Nestle Philippines, Weinstein Pianos and Sharexchange. Exclusive to Asga members and their chosen partner/guest, the tournament offers more than P600,000 worth of prizes.

Organizers of the Asga Cup include Joe Ong, Pompey Nolasco, Ben Narciso, Ed Gaddi, Romy Laig, Bobby Hilado, Jun Pambid, Pol Medinam ACCI directors Joey Laurel and Jun Galindez.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Agassi marries Graf

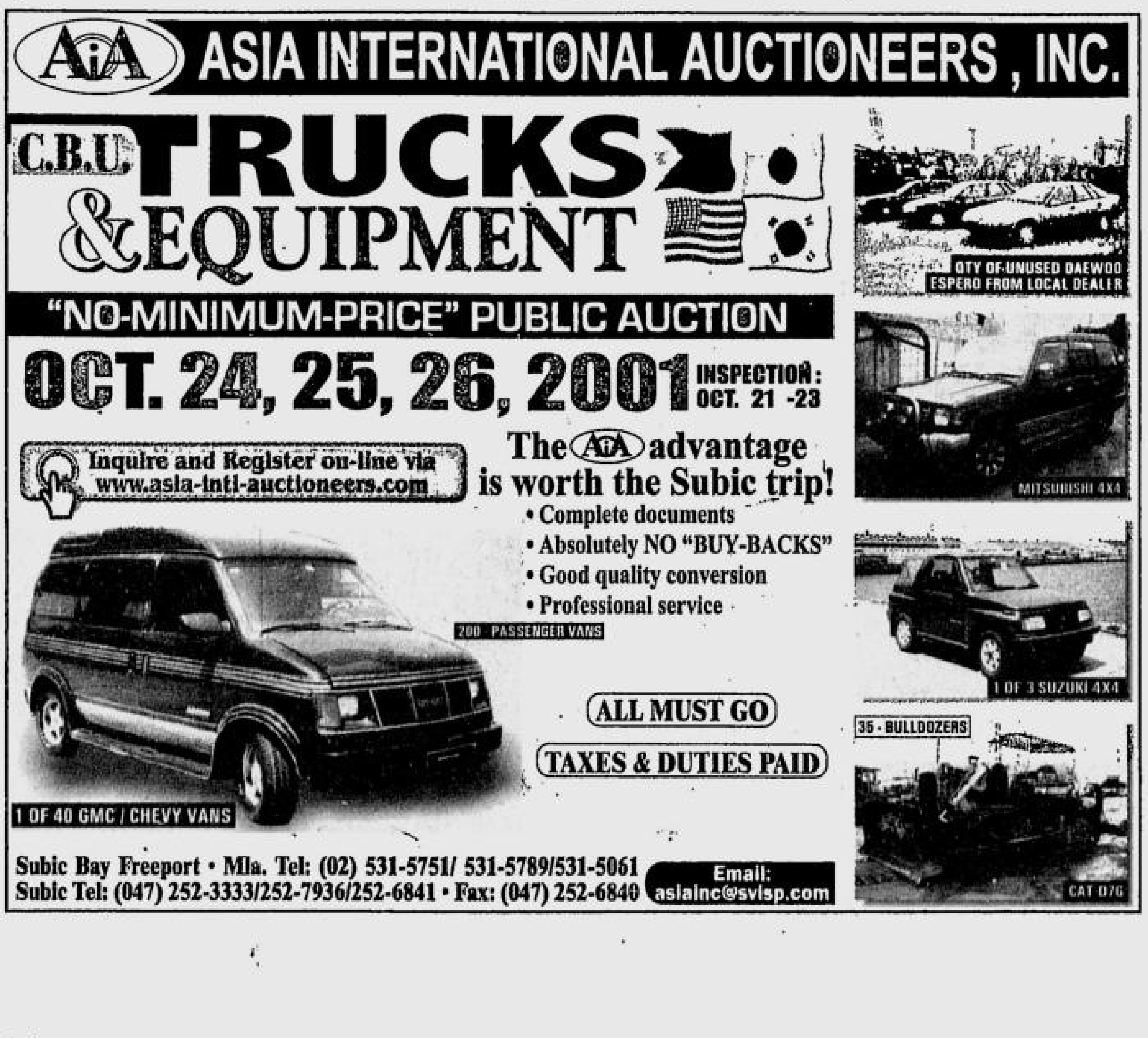
LAS VEGAS—Tennis stars Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf were married in a small, private ceremony in Las Vegas. "We are so blessed to be married and starting this chapter of our lives," the couple said in a joint statement. Agassi and Graf are expecting their first child—a boy—in December. Agassi, 31, and Graf, 32, began dating after each won their side of the French Open in 1999. Graf retired in 1999. *AP*

### Lawrie rules Dunhill

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland—Paul Lawrie holed a 60-foot birdie putt from off the final green on the Old Course Monday to win the first $5 million Dunhill Links Championship by one stroke. It was his first victory since the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie, where he won a three-man playoff after Jean Van de Velde of France threw away the title on the last hole. Lawrie's approach shot at the 18th hole spun back off the front of the green into the Valley of Sin, but he holed from there for a 4-under-par 68 to beat Ernie Els by a single shot. The putt was almost identical to the putt holed by Costantino Rocca of Italy to get into a playoff against John Daly in the 1995 British Open. Daly won the playoff. *AP*

### 'Shootfest' on 13

SHOOTFEST, the only television show on shooting, will televise the First Congressional Cup held recently in Camp Crame. Shootfest is shown every Thursday on Channel 13 starting at 11:30 p.m. Shootfest is shown in cooperation with Argentina Corned Beef, Century Tuna, and Armscor.



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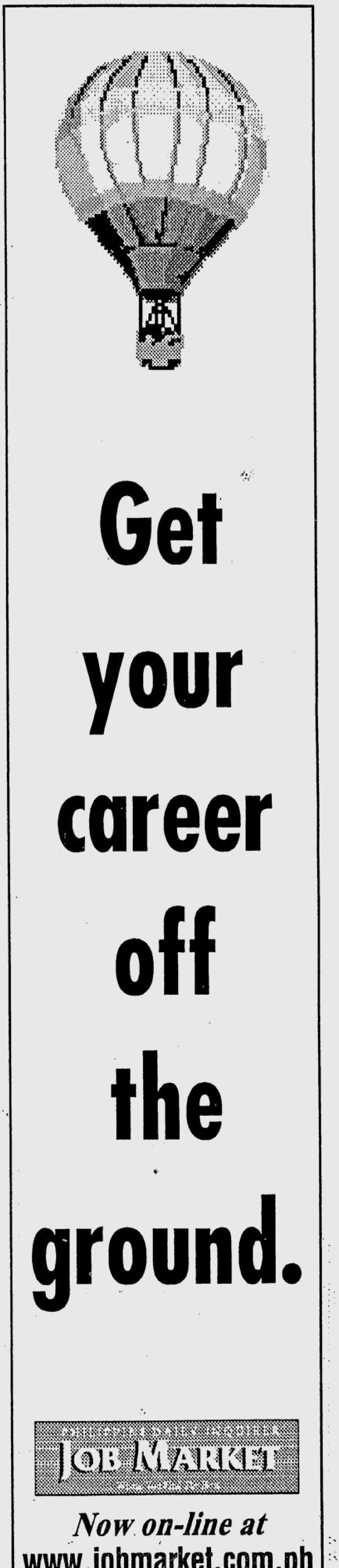

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# SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

## NBA chief enthusiastic

NEW YORK—Contrary to what Michael Jordan believes, NBA commissioner David Stern says he's very enthusiastic about No. 23's return to the league. "Michael is going to be great this season. The concern everyone has is his ability to take the strain and the grind of an 82-game NBA season, because the NBA season is a very difficult season," Stern said Monday in his annual preseason conference call with reporters. *AP*

### P107 MILLION

# PSC urges unity despite budget cut

TUASON

FACED with a huge cut in government allocation, Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason yesterday urged the fragmented sport sectors to unite and work for a common cause.

"It is not the time to get divided, everybody must be united and play roles to avoid the specter of Philippine sports breaking into pieces. Only by being together can we find ways to get out of this predicament," said Tuason.

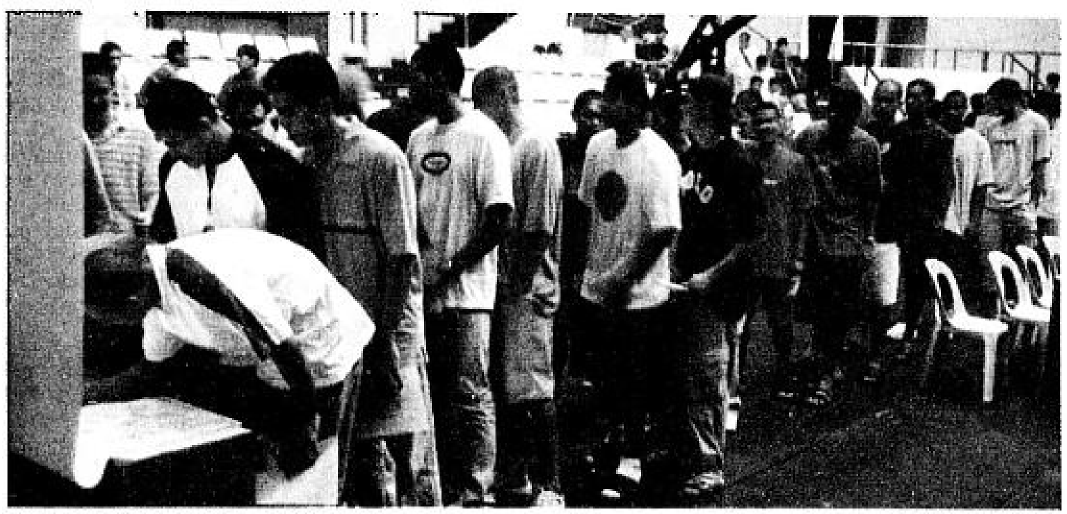
On Monday, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncondin bared a P107 million allocation for the PSC, endangering among others, the sports agency's plans of going all out in its preparations for the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan, Korea, the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games, the Batang Pinoy Games as well as the revival of the Palarong Pambansa. Also to be affected are the upgrading of the athletes' dormitories and maintaining venues for their comfort and well being.

The PSC had originally asked for P249 million but the persisting crisis–worsened much more by the Sept. 11 terror attack on the United States–has severely affected the country's financial landscape. The proposed 2002 figure is P141 million lower than the request of PSC for P248 million.

Together with the other officials of PSC, Tuason met with various heads of National Sports Associations last night to discuss ways of addressing the needs of athletes better in the face of the budget problem.

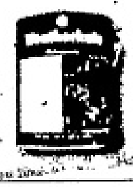
"We will need the help of everybody for us to prepare for this incoming big storm and hopefully this meeting will provide us some insights," Tuason said.

PSC/ A21



**MANIFESTO OF APPEAL** ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Players and their supporters line up to sign the manifesto of appeal for the reversal of the rulings made by the GAB, UAAP and NCAA boards regarding their stint in the PBL yesterday at the Makati Coliseum. The players want to play in both their schools and PBL teams.



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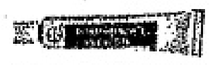

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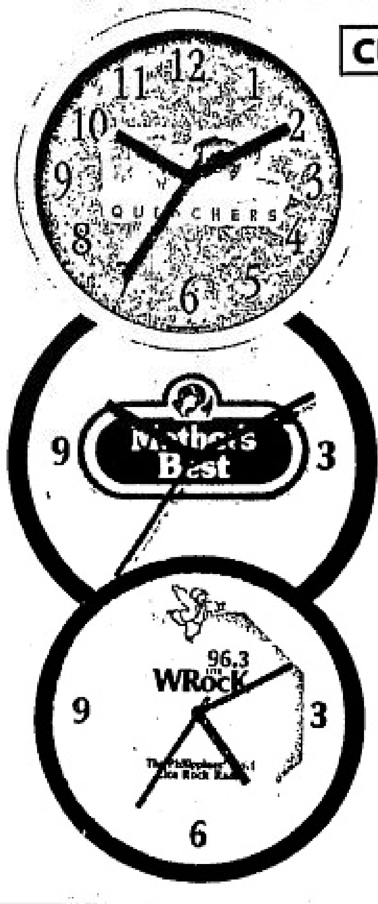

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- PNB cashier nabbed for P9.5M loss A24
- Cops want their station chief kicked out A24

# METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

planet love
JOEY 92.3 Rhythms
TOUCH DOWN
WED OCT/31
NBC TENT

WIDOWS (from left) Shirley de la Rosa, Nita de la Rosa and Angelita Aniceto with a 5-month-old daughter show pictures of their slain husbands to reporters. VAL HANDUMON

# 'Our husbands were killed like animals'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND NELSON F. FLORES

"REYNALDO was shot in the head. He suffered badly. He was treated like an animal. He had hack wounds. If it were a legitimate (police) operation, how can they explain his injuries?"

Reynaldo's widow, Maria Nita de la Rosa, is heavy with their third child and she still cannot come to terms with the killing of her husband and three other men in an alleged encounter with government troops in San Isidro, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City last Sunday.

Philippine National Police officials insist that the four men belonged to the communist New People's Army and were killed by members of the PNP's Special Action Force in a legitimate operation.

But the men's families claim the men were farmers who hunted wild boar on the side. The homemade shotguns seized from them were for hunting animals, not shooting uniformed men, the relatives said.

The families of Raul Magisa, 40; Emiliano de la Rosa, 46, and his son Reynaldo, 26, and Dominador Anacleto, 30, yesterday went to Camp Crame and showed reporters photographs of the dead men's bodies.

The men's heads were bashed in, their fingers broken and, apart from being shot, the bodies were also stabbed and hacked.

According to Agence France Presse, the families of the four men yesterday

OUR HUSBANDS/ A24

# New cell phone billing scheme to take effect

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CELL phone users would get a break from a new billing scheme the National Telecommunications plans to implement.

Instead of charging calls on a per minute basis, the new billing scheme would go by a 6-second pulse charging and ease the problem of dropped calls, which have long been a bane to consumers.

But NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said he would still have to talk to Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. "about the most reasonable time to implement this (billing scheme)".

Globe and Smart are the biggest cellular phone service providers in the country.

Last year, both telecom companies filed a petition to prevent the NTC from implementing a memorandum circular that would change the existing billing scheme.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court ruled in favor of the telecom companies, but the Court of Appeals recently ruled in favor of the NTC.

Rio said he saw "no obstacle for the NTC to implement (the circular), although the telcos (telecom companies) would have to adjust their equipment (to accommodate the change)."

NEW CELL PHONE/ A24

# Waste segregation most effective, says Greenpeace

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

WASTE segregation, recycling, and composting, contrary to the observation of a Belgian expert on garbage, are the most effective solutions to Metro Manila's mounting garbage crisis, according to Greenpeace Philippines.

"These are the long-term solutions and we should stick to them," Greenpeace campaigner Francis de la Cruz yesterday told the INQUIRER.

De la Cruz said Metro Manila towns and cities are "on the right direction" if they would strictly implement waste segregation.

Earlier, Roger van den Berghe, a Belgian economist and consultant on garbage, described the scheme as "a waste of time, money, and effort."

But Greenpeace believes that waste segregation, if carried out strictly and effectively, would be the ultimate solution to the garbage problem.

"There's no magic machine that would make the (garbage) crisis go away," De la Cruz said.

WASTE SEGREGATION/ A24

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# PNB cashier nabbed for P9.5M loss

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

POLICE yesterday arrested a cashier of the Philippine National Bank-PCSO branch in Quezon City for the questionable loss of about P9.5 million in cash from the bank.

Shirley Agustin, 39, however, maintained she merely wanted to help out a friend in distress when she took the amount from the bank's vault a few days earlier.

But the friend, whom she refused to name, was nowhere to be found, leaving Agustin by her lonesome to suffer the consequences.

"I trusted my friend so much but this is all I get," Agustin told the INQUIRER. "I merely wanted to help. If I had the money, then I could have easily returned it. The thing is, it's not with me."

The Central Police District yesterday filed charges of qualified theft and estafa against her before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Agustin was arrested on the basis of the complaint that PNB branch manager Prescioso Carbonell filed with the CPD criminal investigation unit after the cashier failed to show up at the bank.

Carbonell told police that bank officials discovered the loss of the cash when they conducted a cash count last Monday. The bank's ledger showed that the money in the vault should have been P12,479,400. But a cash count yielded only P2,857,500, or short of P9,621,900.

Carbonell said he told Agustin last Wednesday that they would conduct a cash count before the bank opened at 9 a.m. But the cashier slipped out of the bank without telling her superior and did not report for work for the next two days.

Last Monday, Agustin called up her boss to inform him she would talk to an official at the bank's main office to explain the loss. She also reportedly promised to report for work to witness the cash count.

When she failed to show up, bank officials went ahead with the cash count and discovered the missing funds.

Agustin admitted she took P9.5 million from the bank's vault on Oct. 10 to deposit it in Metrobank for a high-yield interest.

But she alleged at first that on the way to the bank, she was robbed.

# Is it the dead-end, or would there be greatness?

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

THE death of the young, very talented painter Miguel Castillo in a sea mishap in Cavite on Sunday has caused deep pain for all of us who loved and cared for him. Miguel, 33, was close and known to my three sons as his father, the poet-novelist Erwin Castillo, is my dear brother. Kindly say a prayer for dear Miguel, himself a very good boxer.

Also, please permit me this brief break as I give way to this valuable piece from Teodoro M. Reynoso, a boxing scholar from the Province of Bulacan:

"It was (promoted) as the fight to determine the first undisputed world middleweight champion since the long, illustrious reign of Marvelous Marvin Hagler. It was also projected as an ultimate eliminator to determine the challenger to Roy Jones Jr. as the world's best boxer pound-for-pound.

"But what sadly came out of the recent Felix Trinidad-Bernard Hopkins fight was the death of talent and competition in the middleweight division.

"The middleweight division, since the time preceding the remarkable reign of the incomparable Sugar Ray Robinson, had until recent years provided stiff competition to the big boys of the heavyweight division in terms of sheer talent, competitiveness and savvy. It has been said that the 160-pound weight class is ideal because it's the division where fighters are neither too big nor too small. Hence, the division has produced such legends as Sugar Ray Robinson, Jake La Motta, Harry Greb, Dick Tiger, Joey Giardello, Carlos Monzon, Vito Antoubermo, Hagler and, until his rise to the lightheavyweight class, Roy Jones Jr.

* * *

**"Unfortunately, the middleweight province has been in the doldrums lately that it took a blown-up welterweight in the person of Trinidad to rekindle interest and excitement in the division.**

**"Alas, Tito's crushing defeat at the hands of old-time division resident Hopkins could also dash hopes for a lasting interest in the middleweight class.**

**"Who could be the next credible opponent for Hopkins?**

**"Oscar de la Hoya? Oh, come on. *Hindi nga umubra si Trinidad, si De la Hoya pa kaya?* Didn't Oscar lose clearly to Shane Mosley, a blown-up lightweight? De la Hoya's recent victory over a nondescript Spaniard with a show-bizzy surname doesn't mean much, considering that his opponent has had two previous KO losses.**

**"Hopkins and, before him, William Joppy, Reggie Johnson and James Toney have been around but did little to uplift the middleweight division. Jones reigned supreme but suffered from lack of credible opposition. At least, when such middleweights as Julian Jackson, Nigel Benn and Gerard McClellan were still titleholders in the alphabet soup organizations, we were treated to some fine championship fights. That was in the early to mid '90s yet.**

* * *

"Anyway, despite his late-round KO loss to Hopkins, Tito Trinidad, to me, is still the most viable title rival for Hopkins, who now that he's way past 30 has only about a couple more of primetime years ahead of him. Trinidad is only 28 and can still improve further with more fights in the middleweight class. Remember, he was only into his second fight as a middleweight when he lost to Hopkins; and only into his fourth bout after relinquishing his welterweight crown. Trinidad has previously fought and beaten David Reid and Fernando Vargas in the junior middleweight class and Joppy in the 160-pound category.

"Another thing that bolsters my continuing faith in Trinidad was the fact that he took the fight and forced the action on Hopkins, notwithstanding the latter's advantage in physique and experience. Such tactic proved disastrous for the Puerto Rican as he was repeatedly tagged by an assortment of Hopkins counter-power shots which weakened him considerably in the latter rounds.

"Trinidad indeed allowed his confidence and machismo (giving as well as taking) to get the better of him in that first fight with Hopkins.

"Just imagine how that fight could have gone had Trinidad opted to take the defensive and just contented himself with counter-punching at least in the first half of the bout. He could have forced the older Hopkins to punch and wear himself out by the latter rounds. That opportunity could have opened the door for Trinidad to finish off the American in his characteristic style.

* * *

**"Well, all told, the question to ask now is: Can Trinidad improvise on his forward-mode style of fighting? Hagler couldn't and didn't hence he lost to Sugar Ray Leonard in their memorable title fight in the late '80s.**

**"If Trinidad can't change for the better, he should forget about a second fight with Hopkins. But he's so brilliant and exciting a fighter he should stay inside the ring. However, if he can't fully mature as a middleweight, he should just go back down to the junior middleweight division. After all, there's such a thing as reaching the ultimate point of one's ability or competence."**

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 24, 2001
29th Week in Ordinary Time

**1st Reading:** **Rom 6:12-18**
**Gospel:** **Lk 12:39-48**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if his master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

But it may be that the steward thinks: 'My Lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the menservants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he doesn't know. He will discharge his servant and number him among the unreliable.

The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what his master wanted, will be punished with sound blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

### Commentary

*The burglar's coming is never announced. The second coming of Jesus is the same—unexpected. Therefore, like the owner of a house, we must always be vigilant. We have to continue to live in love then. The parable now turns to the exercise of power by those assigned with authority in the community of faith. Authority is a ministry. It is meant to serve others with love and justice. The Lord will reward with his mercy those who are considerate to their subjects. Power over others is a gift for a greater reward but which can be misused to disgrace and rejection in the end. The more gifted, the more responsibility, the more disgrace in failure.*

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**WHOOPEE!**

ERIK ARAZAS

These people are not buying, they're looting. The fruits and vegetables are from a 10-wheeler truck that lost control and crashed on the Pasay City portion of the South Superhighway. Twenty-one people were injured in the accident yesterday.

# Waste segregation . . .

**(From page A23)**

"Segregation is the key since it's low-cost, local, low-tech, and human."

The system is very viable since it would reduce the volume of the waste of the metropolis, he said.

Half of Metro Manila's 6,000-ton daily garbage is "compostable" while another 30 percent are "recyclable," according to Greenpeace.

The remaining volume is composed of residual waste, which cannot be disposed of by any technology so far, De la Cruz said.

"If only people would have the discipline to segregate this garbage, the problem would be eradicated," he said.

Compostable garbage should not even be picked up by garbage trucks since residents could set up composting areas in their neighborhood, he said.

Quezon City Rep. Ma. Theresa Defensor yesterday asked the House of Representatives to investigate the garbage problem in Metro Manila and to determine who should be held accountable for the crisis.

Defensor, the assistant majority leader, filed a resolution seeking a House inquiry to determine the severity of the garbage problem and the threats it poses to the health of the residents.

She wants a "full disclosure" of where Metro Manila's garbage is being dumped and will be dumped, and who should be held accountable for the mess.

"It is evident that there is a common willingness to deal with the garbage problem," she said. "Yet in the end, we must ask who is willing to live up to the demands of accountability."

She echoed observations that the Philippines, or at least its capital, does not need anthrax to poison its citizens because the stench of uncollected garbage and the pollution are enough to kill them slowly.

"Well, the Philippines is already under attack from bioterrorism," she said in a privilege speech. "Only this time, we cannot blame the terrorists but our own neglect."

Defensor said the garbage crisis in Metro Manila worsens every day.

# 'Our husbands were . . .'

**(From page A23)**

filed a complaint with the Antipolo prosecutor's office against seven members of the PNP's Special Action Force led by Senior Insp. Erickson Dilag.

The families accused the seven policemen of murdering the four men.

Joy, the widow of Magisa, said her husband's body "had wounds in the back and the elbows."

"They looked like hack wounds to me," said Joy, who is pregnant with their second child. "Someone even removed his boots so they could shoot his feet."

Shirley de la Rosa lost both husband and son.

Anacleto's wife Angelita believes her husband suffered the worst.

"His head was bashed, his fingers broken," a weeping Angelita said. "We have six children. One of them had his birthday the day after the massacre. Those men took our husbands' lives. They must pay with their own."

Barangay Isidro residents said the SAF members might have thought they were walking into an ambush when they heard the farmers firing shotguns at wild game.

The widows said they were not able to get their husbands' bodies until early morning Monday. They were too scared to retrieve the bodies after the encounter because the SAF might shoot them too, they said.

An entry in the PNP central operations journal indicated that about 9:15 a.m. Sunday, members of the PNP-SAF 1st Battalion and PNP Region 4 "encountered DTs (dissident terrorists)" while "conducting operations."

"The four DTs were killed and four shotguns (were) recovered," a portion of the entry read. "The cadavers (were) turned over to the Antipolo City (police station)."

Three of the victims were allegedly listed as members of the NPA's Narciso Antaso Aramil Command. The fourth, identified as Emilio de la Rosa, was reported to be the "head of Milisyang Bayan."

The report did not name the SAF men who took part in the encounter.

Bathan, head of the PNP-SAF, said his men should not be blamed for the encounter since the "dissidents" fired first.

Besides, San Isidro is a known rebel infested area, he said. "I was not around during the encounter but I think my men are telling the truth," Bathan said.

He said he has already ordered the seven SAF men to submit their statements to the Antipolo police.

# Cops want their station chief kicked out

By Jerome Aning

POLICEMEN from the Pandacan police station in Manila yesterday warned of "turbulence" as they insisted that their station commander should be ousted for abuse of authority, curtailment of their benefits and exhibiting paranoia.

Seventy-three of the Western Police District Station 10's personnel have signed a petition asking the WPD director, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., and Mayor Lito Atienza to sack Supt. Jose Victor Bantigue.

Pasinos met the protesting policemen yesterday afternoon at Station 10 on Jesus Street. The confrontation was still ongoing at press time and Bantigue could not be reached for comment.

"If he's not removed soon, one of us could lose his temper one day and do something terrible," one policeman told the INQUIRER Monday night. "There could be turbulence."

In their petition, the policemen enumerated their complaints against Bantigue and claimed they were "very much affected" and demoralized by his acts.

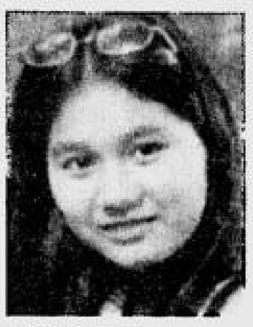
They accused Bantigue of "mismanaging" the station. They said they suspect he was receiving money from a gambling lord.

They said Bantigue would arrest and detain suspects without a concrete basis. As a result, many cases filed by investigators were often recommended dismissed by the inquest prosecutor.

They complained that he violated their right to privacy by tapping the two telephones at the police desk. They said Bantigue unnecessarily handles personally all duties in the station, from administrative to community relations.

Last Sept. 21, 33 barangay chairs in Pandacan wrote Mayor Atienza and demanded Bantigue's "immediate ouster." They accused Bantigue of asking money in exchange for releasing people they arrested for various offenses.

# Missing



RONQUILLO

ARLENE L. RONQUILLO, 15, a junior at Fort Bonifacio High School and resident of 8566 San Jose St., Barangay Guadalupe, Makati City, has been missing since Sept. 20.

She was last seen at 5:30 a.m. that day when she left home to go to school.

If anyone has seen or heard from Arlene, please call her mother, Regina L. Ronquillo, at 751-5239, or Maj. Pompe Dungca of Makati Police Community Precinct 2 at 882-4576 and 752-3757.

# Soriano, 84

FLORENCIA "Puring" Dalisay Soriano died on Oct. 21, 2001. She was 84.

She is survived by children and children-in-law Teddy and Linda, Flor and Ben, Sally and Buddy, Gil and Nitz, Biyo and Lita, Mike and Cely, and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Funeral Homes on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Burial will be tomorrow, 1 p.m. at Himlayang Filipino Memorial Park in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

# New cell phone . . .

**(From page A23)**

He said the commission would wait for the official decision of the court before talking with the telecom firms.

NTC common carriers authorization department chief Edgardo Cabarios said changing the existing billing scheme would help ease the problem of dropped calls that consumers always complain about.

If a call gets dropped within any given fraction of a minute, the call would be charged from the nearest six seconds, instead of charging consumers for a whole minute.

Consumers would not have to pay a full-minute charge for a call that was terminated only seconds into a new minute, and not for a full minute as is the current practice.

The memorandum circular would also extend the validity of prepaid call cards from two months to two years, although Cabarios said the NTC would amend this provision.

## METROBRIEFS

### Houseboy shoots employer

POLICE said houseboy Ruben Raquellasa, 23, a native of Bicol, shot in the head his Chinese employer, Johnny Go. Go, of Barangay Balingasa, Quezon City, was still in critical condition yesterday at the Chinese General Hospital. Police are hunting down Raquellasa, who fled after he shot Go Monday morning. Witness Hilario Taton, another employee of Go in his furniture business, told police Raquellasa approached Go from behind and shot him once in the head.

*Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

### Rape suspect beaten to death

SUSPECTED rapist Santiago Molina Tabios, 40, died after he was allegedly beaten to death on Monday by his fellow inmates at the detention cell of the Las Piñas police. Tabios, who was in jail for allegedly raping a girl on Sunday, complained of chest pains and died while undergoing treatment at the Las Piñas District Hospital. He suffered several injuries in the head and body. Police said the other inmates could have been disgusted at Tabios' alleged crime and decided to hand to him a "death sentence."

*Christian V. Esguerra*

### British tourist victimized

BRITISH tourist Graham Barnanrd Aston, 66, lost about P55,000 to three young women, one of them aged 14, after he went dining and drinking with them. Aston, who was billeted at 15 Pension Soledad on A. Mabini Street in Ermita, Manila, told police he was visiting historic San Sebastian Church when the three women approached him. He said he went with them, and they ended up in a house where he was offered food and drinks. He said he fell unconscious after he drank the beer. When he woke up, he was no longer in the house and his companions were gone.

*Philip C. Tubeza*

### Widow killed by truck

WIDOW Rita Rufin, 65, died after a 10-wheeler truck ran over her on Monday while she was crossing Quirino Avenue corner Zamora Street in Pandacan, Manila. Rufin, of Gonzalez Street in Pandacan, died instantaneously after the truck driven by Eric Cargas, 40, of Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora in Quezon City, hit her. Cargas told police he did not see her crossing the street, but he stopped when he felt his truck hit something.

*Philip C. Tubeza*

### Beautician arrested

BEAUTICIAN Ariel de la Cruz, 23, allegedly stole P135,000 worth of cash and jewelry from his employer Jahada Jaiyari, 46, to finance the whims and caprices of his lover, police said. Police yesterday arrested De la Cruz after Jaiyari, owner of the Jehada Beaty Salon on Bautista Street in Quiapo, accused him of stealing from her. She told police she noticed her jewelry and purse were missing about a week ago. She and a cousin looked for her possession around the house and found only a pawnshop ticket in De la Cruz's quarters.

*Philip C. Tubeza*

# Sugar Ray cancels Manila concert

MULTI-PLATINUM selling band Sugar Ray has canceled its first-ever Manila show scheduled Oct. 30.

In an official statement issue by the band, the current state of the US nation is the main reason that they decided to cancel their Philippine show.

"Because of the unforeseen tragic events and our nation's current sense of loss, we want to be with our families and take some needed time for reflection.

SHOWS

"We were overseas during the attacks and being so far away underscored the importance of supporting our loved ones during this difficult time."

The group charted such hits as "Someday," "Falls Apart" and "Every Morning," from their multi-platinum selling album, "14:59."

The band has become one of the world's most sought-after acts, with lead vocals Mark McGrath snagging more than half of the female population's hearts.

Sugar Ray is now promoting their latest self-titled album which spawned the hits "When It's Over" and the current airwave cruiser "Answer the Phone." It is available in CDs and cassettes under Warner Music Philippines

## Bands at Suburbia

THIS October, Suburbia Malate features the hottest line-up of bands for nights of unparalleled entertainment and fun.

Start off Monday evenings with the country's premier band Side A performing back-to-back with the retro sound of Mulatto.

Tuesdays are all-night light rock music with K.O. Jones. Wednesdays highlight the powerful voice and smooth dance moves of Judith Banal.

It's girls night-out on Thursdays as Suburbia celebrates ladies night, with a free entrance promo for lady guests and the music of good-looking boy band 7th Soul.

Fridays are pure and unadulterated R&B nights as talented and upcoming artist Malik takes centerstage.

Saturdays are definitely weekend parties with high-energy shows from Escape and Elements.

Suburbia Malate is located at 1718 M. Adriatico St. Malate. For inquiries, call 450-1685 or 86.

## Freestyle with the MPO

FREESTYLE, acknowledged as the country's hottest band in the concert and recording scene today, will mark a milestone in its young career when it mounts "Symphony in Freestyle," a concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), Nov. 24, 8 p m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

The group is composed of members Carlo Tapia, Richard Suzara, Jinky Vidal, Tops Suzara, Gerd Banzon and Nikki Cabardo.

Fans of Freestyle will have the chance to hear again the group's well-loved hits. The pop flavor shall be fused with the classical sound of the MPO, so expect riveting symphonic arrangements of "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "So Slow," "Before I Let You Go," and "This Time" among many others.

Guests in the one-night concert are soulful young divas Bituin Escalante and Anna Fegi.

Tickets are available at the Araneta Coliseum box office and all Ticketnet and Shoemart outlets.

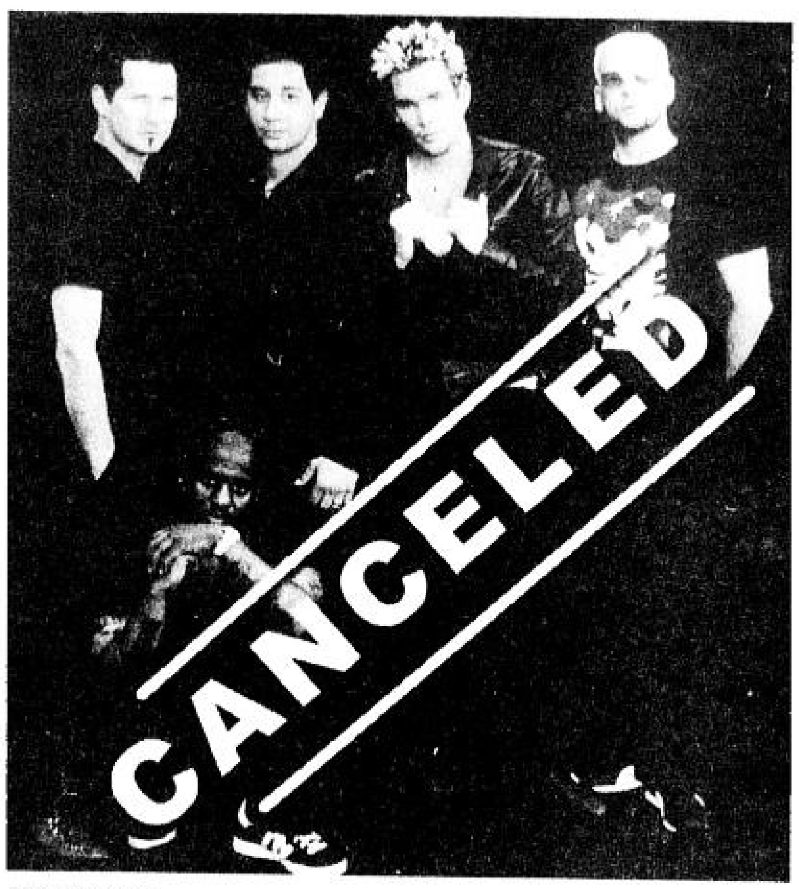
## Apo in mall show

CATCH Apo Hiking Society in a rare mall tour to start at Robinson's Galleria on Oct. 25, Thursday, 4 p.m.

Apo, the Godfathers of Pinoy Pop, will be at Robinson's Novaliches Oct. 26, Friday; Ever Commonwealth Oct. 28, Sunday, 3 p.m.; and at Robinson's Place-Manila Oct. 29, Monday, 4 p.m.

The leading and most durable trio is now promoting their new Universal Records album, "Apo . . . Banda Rito," a collection of the biggest hits from the most popular bands of the '90s.

Danny Javier, Jim Paredes and Boboy Garrovillo will perform selections from the new album, including its carrier single, "Harana," first made popular by Parokya ni Edgar.



**SUGAR RAY**

**APO** Hiking Society. Rare mall tour

**7TH SOUL.** Thursdays at Suburbia

**FREESTYLE.** First time with philharmonic orchestra

# Record and film producer turns Virgin expert

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

*Leah Salterio*

WHEN OctoArts International recording and film boss **Orly Ilacad** decided to go into the restaurant business, he made sure to attend to every minute detail of the venture.

He bought the franchise from Virgin Café, the popular international bar and restaurant chain. After its first branch in Makati, Virgin Café opened other outlets in Libis and Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

"Our contract in Makati expired and our rent was being increased by 20 percent so we decided to just close it," Orly says. "In Libis, the crowd simply prefers to dine and drink."

Orly is on top of the management of the two-year-old Quezon City restaurant, from the inventory of wines to the purchase of kitchen supplies.

"Every night, I check the wines at the bar because we've lost bottles of expensive wines," he says. "Even in food tasting, I supervise everything that will be added to the menu. Our chef suggests new items and I approve them."

At the helm in the kitchen is Filipino executive chef **Art Dunca**, who has a staff of 12.

"I'm very happy that we've made Virgin Café an entertainment place for the family," says Orly. "Our customers belong to a wide age bracket, from six to 60."

At night, Virgin Café customers are mostly young professionals who fill up the 400-seater venue.

**GUTIERREZ.** Brief break

"The people really dress up," Orly notes. "On Fridays and Saturdays, we always have SRO crowds. People don't mind sitting on the stairs. Sometimes, we even have to turn away customers."

He is assisted by his daughters **Caroline** and **Catherine** in running Virgin Café. Caroline is a cum laude human resource management graduate, while Catherine is an export management graduate, both from De La Salle University.

Recently, Virgin Café opened its doors for lunch in Quezon City. A menu called "Filipino Grill" includes *lechon kawali*, baked clams, Bicol express, *inihaw na bangus*, pandan iced tea and *ube buko* shake.

"We've made the price competitive for lunch," Orly offers. "I can say we are cheaper than the other restaurants in the area. After 8 p.m., the regular Virgin Café menu is offered to customers."

Virgin Café also features top bands: Orange Band on Mondays, Elements on Tuesdays, Pido with Take One on Wednesdays, Freeverse on Thursdays, Real Groove on Fridays, Channels and Big on Saturdays, and Power Band on Sundays.

## Ruffa as concert producer

**RUFFA Gutierrez** is in town for another break from her commitments to the Los Angeles-based entertainment outfit, Century Productions. While she's here, she will produce a two-night pre-Halloween dinner show, "The Way We Are . . . ," on Oct. 26 and 27 at the Country Waffles in Greenhills.

The production is from the family-owned Royal Era Entertainment, which previously produced other events, telemovies and a full-length film.

The pre-Halloween concert features Asia's Queen of Songs Pilita Corrales and Rico J. Puno, with guests Jinky Llamanzares and Yam Ledesma.

Ruffa's mom, **Annabelle Rama**, insists the show will go on despite the recent court case involving Country Waffles owner **Bert Nievera**.

"The Way We Are . . ." is for the benefit of the Asilo Medalla Milagrosa. Dinner starts at 7 p.m.

## Back to acting

**SNOOKY Serna** has not been acting before the cameras for quite a spell. Although she remains visible on TV as news anchor on IBC 13 and host of "Travel and Trade," she hasn't done any new films.

Recently, Snooky starred in the drama "Marital Rape," where she plays an obsessive and domineering woman.

"When the role was offered to me, I made sure my shooting schedule would not conflict with my TV show," Snooky says. "I tape 2 to 3 days a week for the show and it requires a lot of travelling."

She admitted she had second thoughts about accepting the role. "I wanted to do something light but different," she explains. "But a role as challenging as that is simply hard to turn down. So when the final draft of the script was given to me, I was convinced."

She stars with **Raymond Bagatsing**, who plays her brother. "My character is obsessed and neurotic," Snooky says.

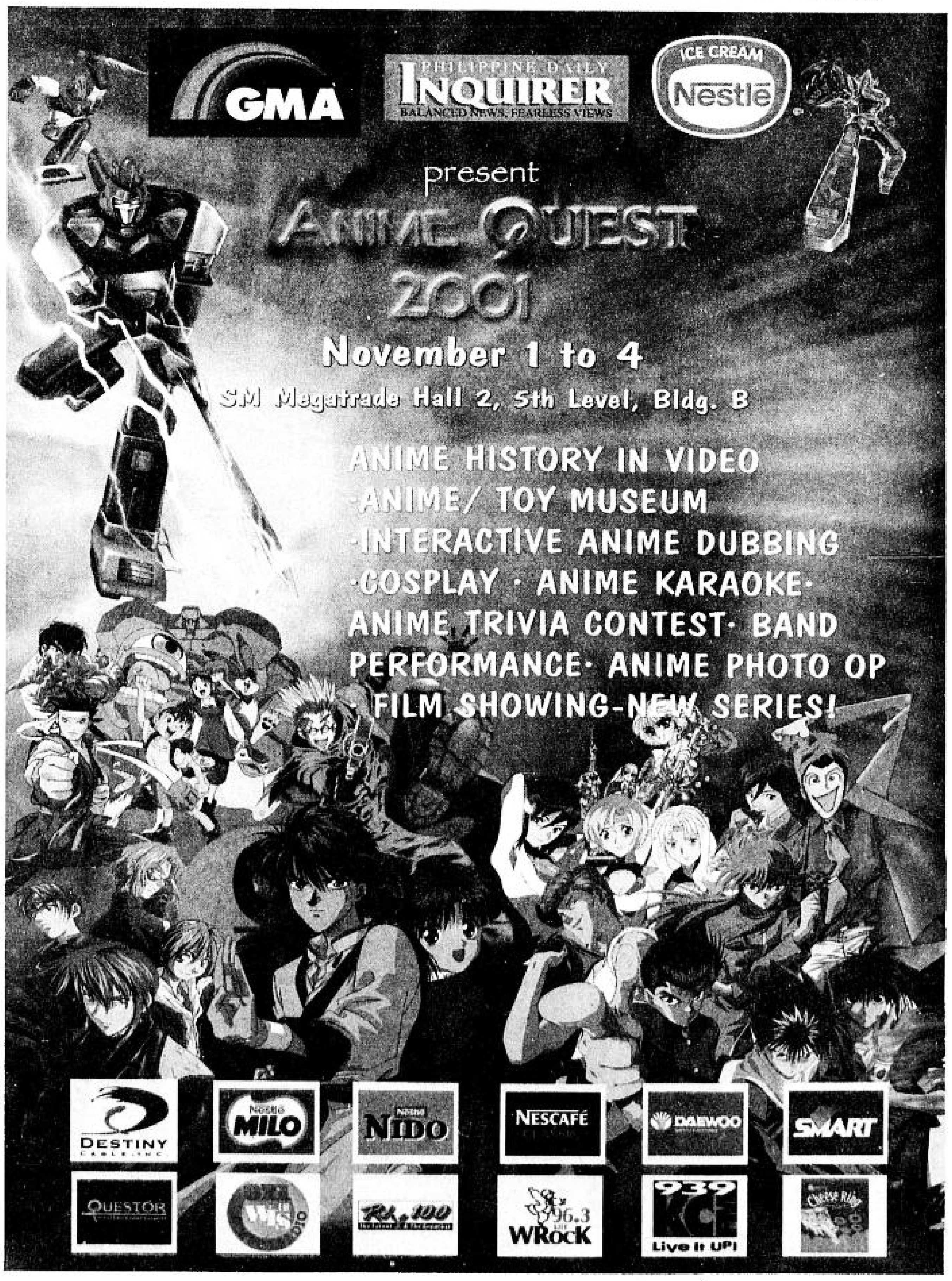
If plans are carried out, she will do another movie, "Hilot," where she will play an abortionist.

"But it still depends on the final script and casting," she says. "I have to admit I really miss acting."

Since she tied the knot with actor **Ricardo Cepeda**, Snooky has prioritized her family. She seems a happy and contented wife to Ricardo and mom to their daughters **Samantha** and **Sachi**.

"Peace and happiness are the most important things to me now," Snooky says. "That's what I want all the time for me and my family."

**ILACAD.** Gets help from daughters Caroline and Catherine in running the business.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| 7 | NAKED NIGHT |
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| 3 | MR. NICE GUY |
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| 6 | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | MARITAL RAPE |

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| 2 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 3 | THE BODY |
| 4 | MANANABAS |
| 5 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| 6 | DOS EKIS |

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| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | TRAINING DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
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| 4 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) | EXTREME FORCE |
| Golden Pearl THX | |

**Masagana CINEMA** (Pasay) tel 831.6603

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | MANANABAS |

**starmall Movies** (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | TRAINING DAY |
| 5 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |

**METROPOLIS star** (Alabang) tel 543.4001

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 2 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| 3 | MANANABAS |
| 4 | DOS EKIS |
| 5 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 6 | TRAINING DAY |
| 7 | RESERVE |
| 8 | RESERVE |

**PREMIERE CINEMA** THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**Center Plaza Cinema** (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANANABAS |
| 2 | TRAINING DAY |

**FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.** tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | |

**Spring** (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MARITAL RAPE |
| A | |

**Sunshine** (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 4 | RESERVE |

**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**City** (Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | OPENS FRIDAY "HIYAS" |
| 6 | MANANABAS |
| 7 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |
| 8 (SDDS) | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 9 (DOLBY) | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**Caloocan** tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | DOS EKIS |

**Grand Central** (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | MANANABAS |
| 4 (SDDS) | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| 5 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 6 (DOLBY) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 7 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |
| 8 | OPENS FRIDAY "HIYAS" |
| 9 | RESERVE |

**Commonwealth** tel 951.0083

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | MANANABAS |
| 4 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 5 (SDDS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 6 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| 7 (DOLBY) | OPENS FRIDAY "HIYAS" |
| 8 | RESERVE |

**Ortigas** tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANANABAS |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |
| 4 | OPENS FRIDAY "HIYAS" |
| 5 (SDDS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**Universal** (Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |

**Sampaguita** (Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |

**Dilson** (Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | SIN OF THE NIGHT |
| Lords | NAKED NIGHT |
| Jennet | |

**THE MARKETPLACE** Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRAINING DAY |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | MANANABAS |

**Prima** (Pasig) tel 641.1215

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | DOS EKIS |

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA** tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | TRAINING DAY |
| 3 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 4 | MANANABAS |
| 5 | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA** tel 244.4619

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | TRAINING DAY |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 | NAKED NIGHT |

**Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA** tel 512.0115

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | RESERVE |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | DOS EKIS |

**Berma** tel 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANANABAS |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |

**CitiMall** (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANANABAS |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall** (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANANABAS |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 (DTS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE HOLE |
| 2 (DTS) | DOS EKIS |
| 3 (DOLBY) | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 4 | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall** (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 (DOLBY) | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 3 (DTS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 | 13 DAYS |

**Cinemagix** (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | SOON TO OPEN |
| 4 | SOON TO OPEN |

**Lianas Cinema** (Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | MANANABAS |
| 2 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |

**Lianas MovieCity** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | THE HOLE |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 (DTS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 | MANANABAS |
| 5 | HULI SA AKTO |

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema** (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | MANANABAS |

**Olivarez Los Baños** tel (049) 536.5101

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | 13 DAYS |

**Olivarez Tagaytay** tel (046) 413.0311

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MARITAL RAPE |
| 2 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| 3 | |

**Morales Cinema** (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | EXTREME FORCE |
| 2 | THE HOLE |
| 3 | |

**Cabuyao** (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | HULI SA AKTO |
| 2 (DTS) | |

**Fourstep** (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CLOSED |

**Emperor** (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HULI SA AKTO |
| 2 | MANANABAS |
| 3 | DOS EKIS |

**Fiesta World Mall** (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | NAKED NIGHT |
| 2 | OSMOSIS JONES |
| 3 | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| 4 | HULI SA AKTO |

**Jade Cinema** (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | |
| 4 (DTS EX) | MANANABAS |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. No.: 700-8314 to 15
E-Mail: [illegible]@asia.com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: [illegible]
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

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# LEGALLY blonde

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 THX | TRAINING DAY |
| 2 | TRAINING DAY |
| 3 | THE BODY |
| 4 | 13 DAYS |
| 5 | DOS EKIS |
| 6 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 7 | TOWN & COUNTRY |
| 8 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 9 | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| 10 | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**ERMITA** 530-7809 TO 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRAINING DAY |
| 2 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 3 | DOS EKIS |
| 4 | THE BODY |
| 5 | DOS EKIS |
| 6 | INVISIBLE CIRCUS |
| 7 | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**NOVALICHES** 935-3229 TO 31

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | TRAINING DAY |
| 3 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 | TRAINING DAY |
| 5 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 6 | RESERVE |
| 7 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 8 | DOS EKIS |

**IMUS** (046) 471-8168

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRAINING DAY |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 | THE BODY |
| 5 | MANANABAS |
| 6 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |

**BACOLOD** (034) 441-0453

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 13 DAYS |
| 2 | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| 3 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| 4 | HEARTBREAKER |
| 5 | SISID |
| 6 | PRINCESS DIARIES |

**SOON TO OPEN**

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

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# THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

**ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101**

| | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | MANANABAS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | 13 DAYS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | AMERICAN PIE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | AMERICA'S SWEETHEART |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | EXTREME FORCE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY) | THE HOLE |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY) | NAKED NIGHTS |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY) | MANANABAS |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| NEW FRONTIER | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

**MANILA**

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | IRA / CLIMAX |
| ODEON | DOS EKIS |
| ODEON-2 | TRAINING DAY |
| ROBEN | NAKED NIGHTS |
| TANDEM-1 | SEX MEDUSA |
| TANDEM-2 | SEX EDUCATION |
| TIMES | SCREAM . . . FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE |

**QUEZON CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | NAKED NIGHTS |
| REMAR | DOS EKIS |
| REMAR-2 | MANANABAS |

**NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| A | MANANABAS |
| B | NAKED NIGHT |
| C | |

**MANDALUYONG CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| CINEMA-2 | TRAINING DAY |

**CAINTA RIZAL**

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | MARITAL RAPE |
| CINEMA-2 | NAKED NIGHTS |
| CINEMA-3 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | 13 DAYS |
| CINEMA-6 | SISID |
| CINEMA-7 | LA VIDA ROSA |
| CINEMA-8 | DOS EKIS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | TRAINING DAY |
| CINEMA-11(SDDS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| CINEMA-12 | THE BODY |
| CINEMA-14 | MANANABAS |
| CINEMA-15 | DOS EKIS |

**LORES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |

**POWER PLANT CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-1 | THE BODY |
| CINEMA-2 | TRAINING DAY |
| CINEMA-3 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| CINEMA-4 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| CINEMA-5 | THIRTEEN DAYS |
| CINEMA-6 | LEGALLY BLONDE |

**UNIWIDE METROMALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PIÑAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |

**UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO |
| CINEMA-2 | LARUANG BUHAY |
| CINEMA-4 | AKO ANG LALAGOT |

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# It has nothing . . .

(From page A27)

more to being a lawyer than memorizing facts from books. It also illustrates that ambitious law students, both male and female, sometimes get so caught up in logic and the promise of high grades that they lose part of their humaneness.

## Buoyant

One of the more touching subplots of "Legally Blonde" has Elle befriending her hairdresser because no one at Harvard wants to be her friend. When on campus, the only one she can talk to is her adorable chihuahua.

Credit for the film's buoyant, colorful tone should also go to the art director and costume designer, who supplied Witherspoon (and the dog) with an outlandish array of tacky, colorful props and outfits that always made Elle leap off the frame.

Synthesizing all the separate elements into an enjoyable package is Australian director Robert Luketic, who makes his Hollywood feature film debut in "Legally Blonde."

Luketic wisely goes the opposite route of films set in schools like "Dead Poets Society" and "Clueless" where the students look like they've stepped off the pages of fashion magazines like GQ and YM. In "Legally Blonde," the students are made to look pale and unattractive, except for Witherspoon and Davis.

## Misfire

Also notable are the locations. Aside from exterior shots, I'm not sure how much of the Harvard scenes were filmed within the venerated campus itself. This movie doesn't glamorize Harvard as much as the more serious Seventies film "The Paper Chase" did, but it still makes you want to see the place.

Thanks to "Legally Blonde" and the TV series "Ally McBeal," Boston is now at the top of my list of cities I'd love to visit.

"Legally Blonde" isn't flawless. The gags miss their marks a few times. An example is the extended "bend and snap" sequence, where Elle teaches the girls at a beauty parlor how to attract men. It goes on for a couple of minutes, and it just isn't funny.

Another misfire shows Elle wearing a Playboy bunny outfit to a party where no one else is wearing a costume. This might have been funnier if only the exact same joke had not been used in "Bridget Jones's Diary," shown just a few months ago.

## Salute

My favorite gag from "Legally Blonde" is a simple one: It's a close-up photo of a wealthy but unattractive girl in one of the society pages. It's a potshot which illustrates that not all wealthy people are as handsome and as beautiful as they think they are.

Also a comic gem is the video which Elle submits to the Harvard admissions office to introduce herself. The video, which Elle hired "a Coppola" to direct, is a cockeyed salute to the clichés found in the works of student filmmakers who grew up watching MTV and "Baywatch."

As a salute to girl power and power of the underdog, "Legally Blonde" is a delight. It's a movie that has nothing to do with how the real world works, and that's the best thing about it. It's the feel-great comedy of the year.

# Welcome addition

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

CINEMA One's "Review Night" show is a welcome addition to our TV programming because it encourages viewers to be more analytical about the movies they choose to view.

Unfortunately, its choice of movies to review is sometimes unproductive. Last week, for instance, the program took a long time to "review" a film ("American Pie, 2") that didn't really deserve such detailed analysis and appreciation.

After all, as some people on the show pointed out, the movie was just a breezy sex comedy—so, "don't try to intellectualize it," "see it just for the sake of seeing." If so, why the extended critiquing?

The show's hosting is also sometimes a problem. Host **Ryan Agoncillo** and guest cohost **Miren Alvarez** both didn't know how to read from idiot boards without looking like—well, you know . . .

Aside from "American Pie, 2," the show didn't review any new movies, but critiqued two old films, "Lucia" and "Luksong Tinik," which were scheduled to be shown on Cinema One in the coming days.

To keep on top of the film scene, "Review Night" should focus on around three new movies each week. The show can also talk about movies showing on Cinema One, but much more briefly.

Agoncillo has been a TV host for only a relatively short time, but he already looks and sounds tried. He really should revitalize his attitude regarding his work on TV.

As for Alvarez, she isn't Ryan's regular cohost on the show but, aside from her obvious way of reading her lines from the idiot boards, she acquitted herself well.

She looked good, cohosted with energy and spirit, and appeared to be movie-savvy. Perhaps she can be given a chance to appear more regularly on the tube?

Alvarez is one of our best stage actresses. It's good that TV has finally "discovered" her because it's in dire need of personable, intelligent, sensitive and articulate people like her.

Indeed, the theater has a host of other similarly promising talents that TV can tap for hosting or acting purposes. It can be an alternative source of TV talents, aside from the usual beauty . . . pageant and modeling scenes, which aren't exactly famous for sense and sensibility.

Aside from evaluating movies, "Review Night" also critiques new music albums. If it gets its act together, it can attract a loyal viewership of people who want greater value for their entertainment peso.

To appeal more to this audience, however, it should tackle more new films (including a Filipino film each week) and get its hosts to contribute more insightfully to the analytical discussions it initiates. If it doesn't, it could continue to get . . . Poor reviews.

## 'Hunting Bin Laden'

LAST Sunday, "News Central" on Studio 23 presented the first half of a two-part docu, "Hunting Bin Lade." The second half airs at 11 p.m. on Oct. 28.

"News Central" anchor **Mari Kaimo** is the narrator of the in-depth investigation, which is based on interviews and reports from New York Times journalists, CIA officials and political analysts.

"Hunting Bin Laden" traces the terrorist's life from his formative experience in the Afghan "jihad" against the Soviets, to his suspected involvement in the 1998 bombing of two US embassies in Africa, the attack on the USS Cole in 2000, and this year's jetliner assault on New York City and Washington, DC.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| THE BODY - P 13<br>12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 | TRAINING DAY - R 18<br>12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 | LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13<br>12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10 |
| AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18<br>12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 | THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13<br>12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40 | LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13<br>11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 |

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

## 'LEGALLY BLONDE'

# It has nothing to do with the real world, and that is why it's good

**By Paul Daza**

**REVIEW**

THE HIT US comedy "Legally Blonde," starring Reese Witherspoon, hits Metro Manila theaters just when the need for a good laugh has never been stronger.

The story of a rich California girl who discovers that hairdressing and fashion expertise can earn you respect in Harvard Law School, "Legally Blonde" is fun, fun, fun. If you're a loyal reader of magazines like Cosmopolitan and Vogue, the movie might even inspire you to take up Law or to become a detective.

Witherspoon plays Elle Woods, a perky material girl who gets into Harvard Law School just to be with Warner (Matthew Davis), the Ivy-league boyfriend who dumped her for not being good enough for him. At Harvard, however, Elle is made to feel out of place by intellectual classmates and snobbish teachers. Eager to prove she's not a dumb blonde, Elle tries to help solve a high-profile murder case.

Unabashedly formulaic, "Legally Blonde" still delivers the goods. It's a hilarious fish-out-of-water charmer whose arsenal of gags hit their marks more often than they miss. The movie also benefits from a talented supporting cast and touching scenes.

### Magazine girl

Much of the credit of the movie's success lies with Witherspoon herself, cheerfully playing Elle as a young woman who knows the world mostly from what she's read in fashion magazines. This was probably inevitable, since her parents did name her after a magazine.

Actually, the scriptwriters were the ones who named the character "Elle," and what an ingenious and economical way to instantly inform viewers what kind of a person our heroine is. Two women, Kirsten Smith and Karen Lutz, wrote the "Legally Blonde" script and their gender works to the movie's advantage. After all, the movie is told from the female point of view, and that's very refreshing in itself. It worked in "Bridget Jones's Diary," and it works again here.

In one hilarious situation after another, "Legally Blonde" shows us that there's

IT/ A26

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

GHOSTS OF MARS

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

OPENS OCTOBER 31

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@ AYALA CINEMAS

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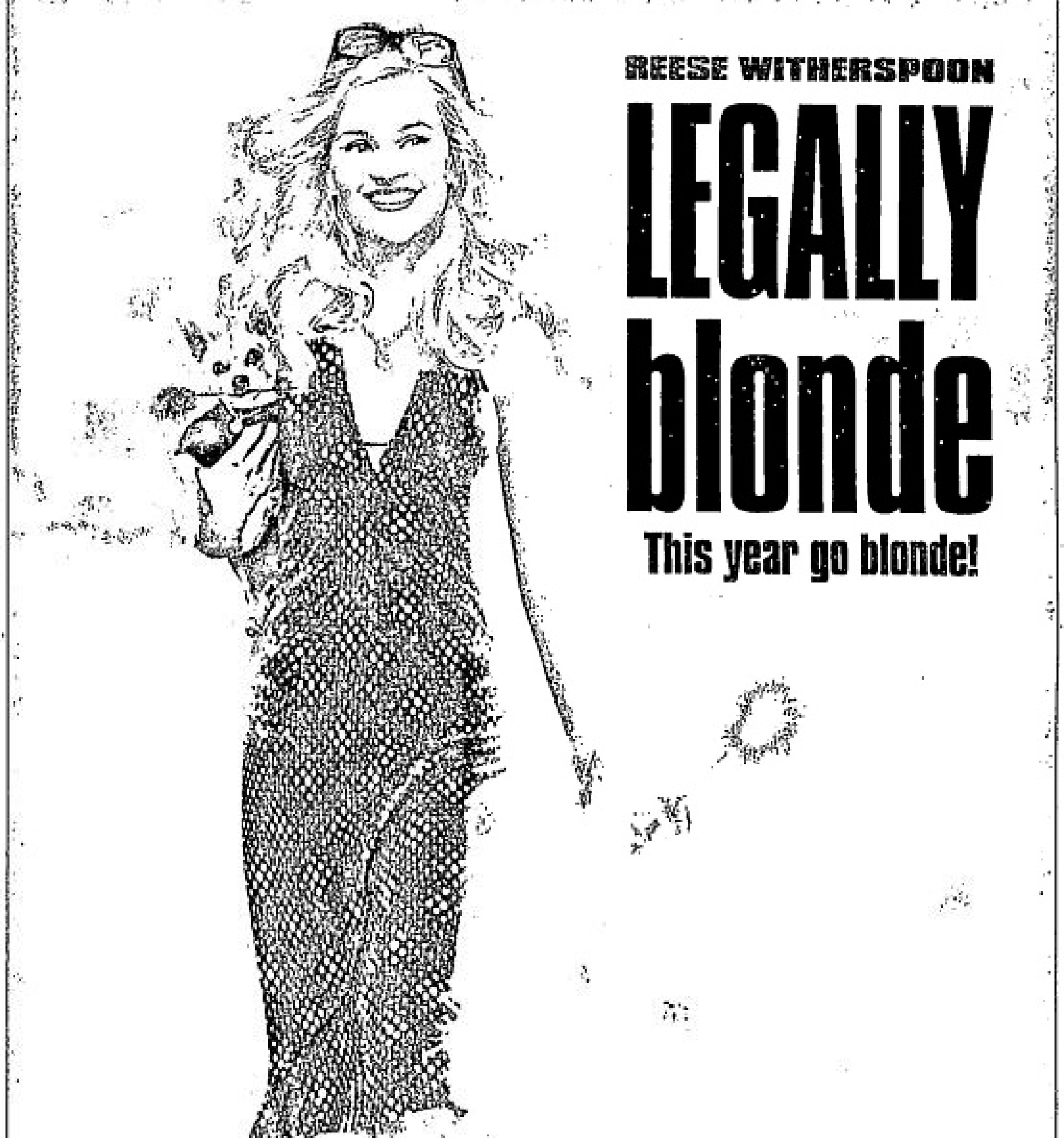
PLUS! Join the LEGALLY BLONDE & Timezone Gold Card Launch Party featuring pop band Strawberry Fields on Oct. 26, 7pm @ Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby. Don't miss the fun because exciting prizes & surprises are at stake!

LEGALLY BLONDE (MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13), w/c stars Reese Witherspoon, opens @ Ayala Cinemas on Oct. 24! This only happens at the best movie place, "The all-digital Ayala Cinemas"

MOVIE SOUNDTRACK Available featuring: Perfect Day by: Hoku



GRAND OPENING TODAY!
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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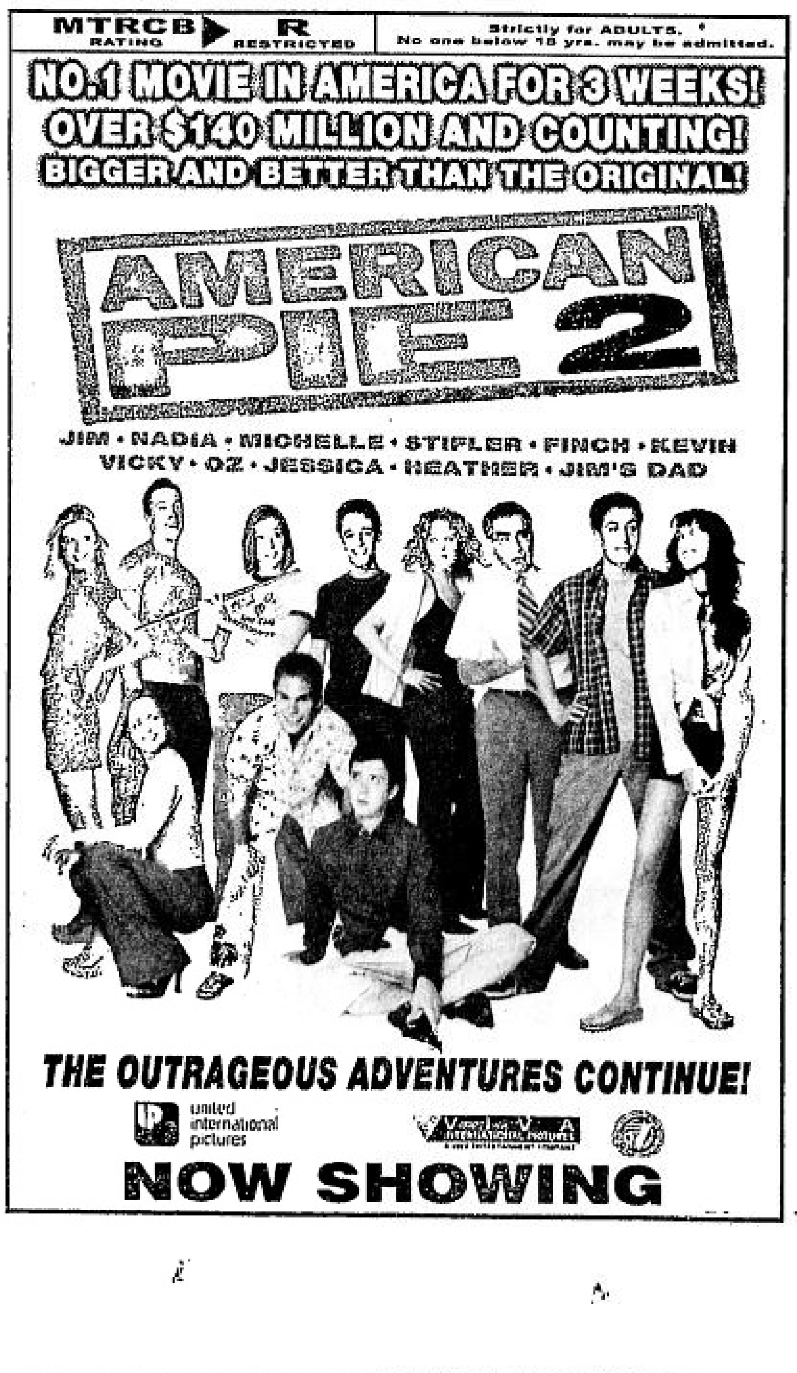

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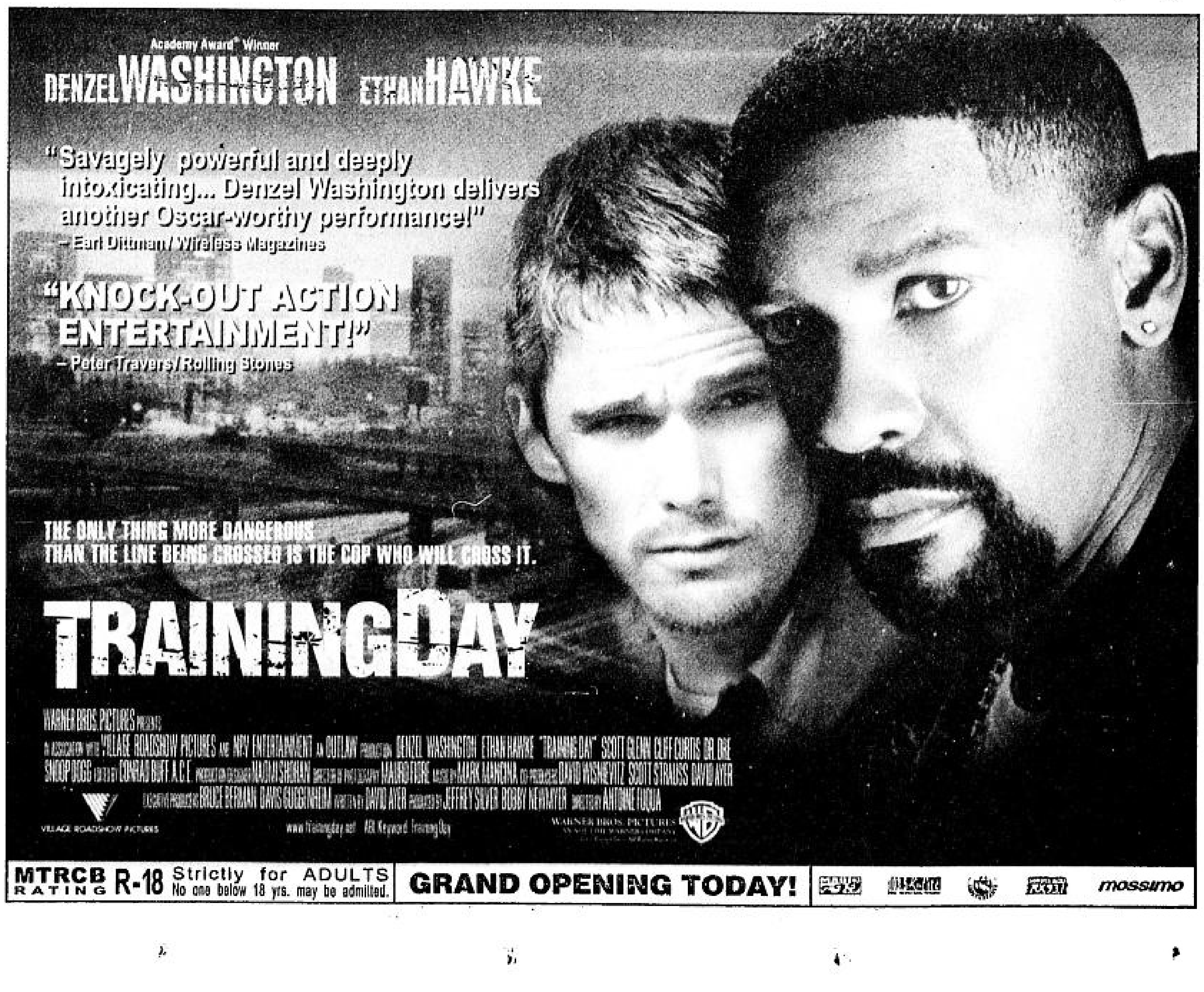

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**Louie C. Camino**, Editor

# Prison finds new life as movie setting

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Gothic architecture. A five-tiered lockup. An authentic Death Row with an unplugged electric-chair chamber.

When Hollywood seeks gritty realism for prison movies, the century-old Tennessee State Penitentiary awaits on the banks of the Cumberland River.

Since it was emptied of inmates 10 years ago because of inhumane conditions, the prison has served as a movie backdropmost recently for "The Last Castle," starring Robert Redford. The prison's emptiness was part of its appeal, said the movie's director, Rod Lurie.

"There are all sorts of security nightmares when you're filming around an operational prison," Lurie said. "The government of Tennessee gave us the complete run of this place."

More important was the building's menacing look. Lurie searched the country for a castle-like structure to portray a military prison. "The Last Castle" explores a struggle for leadership between Redford, a revered general court-martialed after his final mission, and the warden, played by James Gandolfini of the US HBO cable TV's "The Sopranos."

"The split second I rounded the corner and saw this, I turned to my producer and said, 'This is it, period,'" Lurie recalled.

The biggest competition was the shuttered Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio, where "The Shawshank Redemption" was filmed.

But the Tennessee prison's yard, where easily half of "The Last Castle" was shot, was more spacious and its surrounding walls more intact, Lurie said.

The state let the moviemakers lease the prison for free. "The Last Castle," with a $60-million budget and three-month location shoot, is the biggest movie ever made in Tennessee and was a welcome boost to the state's slowing economy.

"When movies come to town, our hotels are booked, our rental cars are rented and our caterers are busy," said Courtney Pohlman of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission.

Pohlman said the prison was "easily our most requested film location in the state."

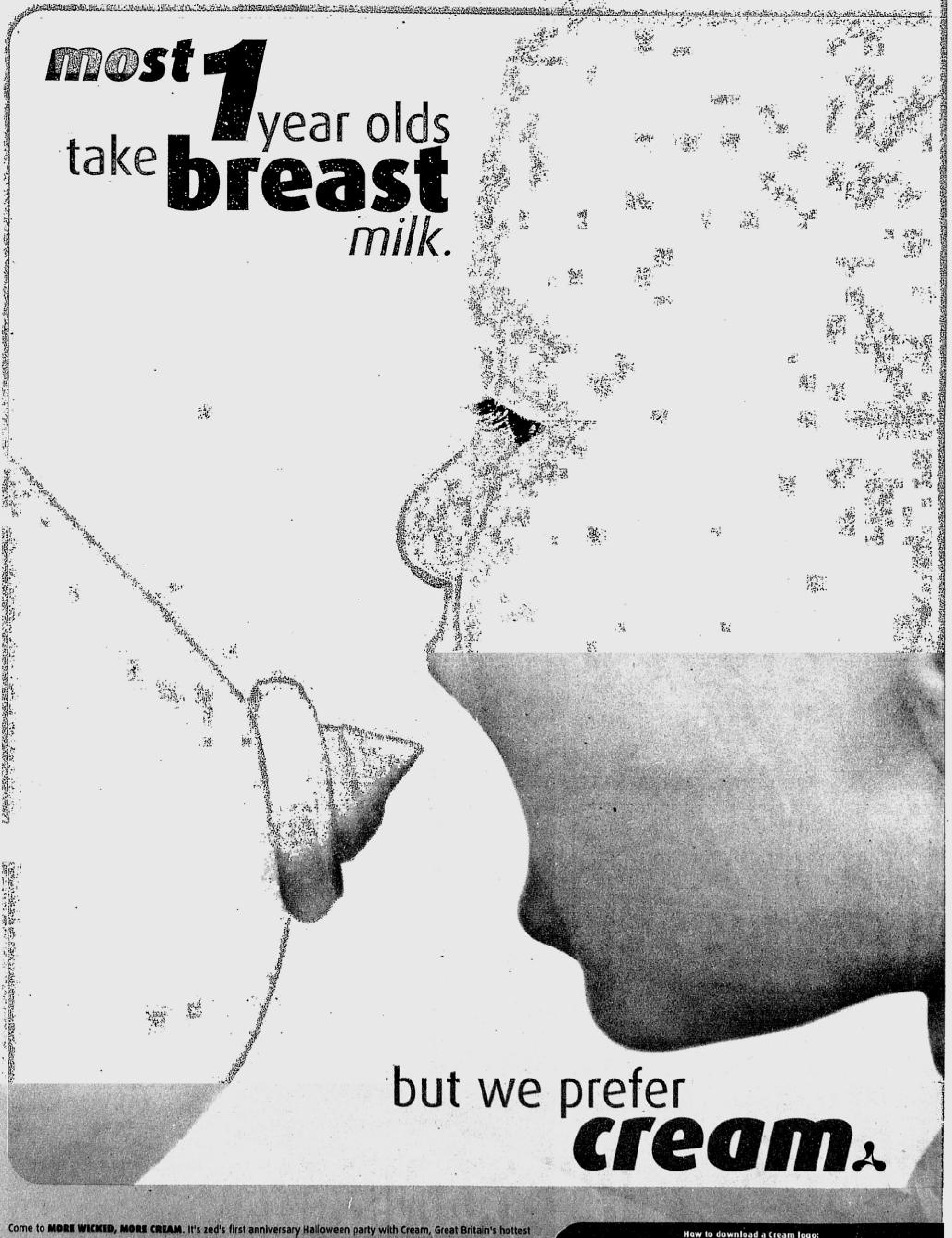
The prison's second career began in 1984 when scenes from the movie "Marie," with Sissy Spacek, were filmed there.

Others followed, including "Ernest Goes to Jail" for Disney in 1989; "Against the Wall" for HBO in 1994 (during which the outside walls were painted from white to red); "Last Dance," starring Sharon Stone, in 1996; and "The Green Mile," starring Tom Hanks, in 1999 (during which the outside was painted light green).

Some biographies for cable channel A&E, music videos such as country singer Travis Tritt's "Best of Intentions" and a TV Guide shoot of country singer Tim McGraw also have been filmed there.

The 48-hectare prison campus includes a hospital, mess hall, chapel and gymnasium. But filmmakers are most interested in the prison itself, a structure so imposing that inmates nicknamed it simply "The Walls."

"There just aren't that many prisons available for film work, especially prisons that have the look of invincibility," said Chet Frist, executive director of the film commission. *AP*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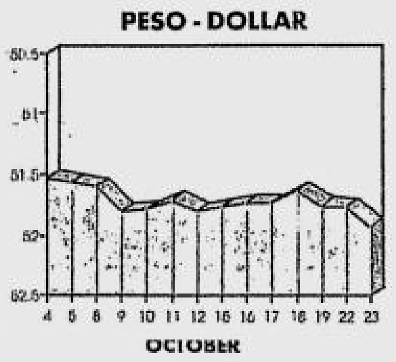
# Semicon firm defers $100-M expansion

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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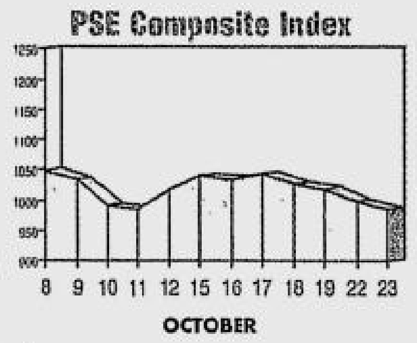
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 23, 2001

**¥122.62 = $1**
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 23, 2001

**GOLD:$272.25/272.75**
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 23, 2001

### STOCK MARKET

#### Stocks down 1.3%



*(See stock market report on Page B2)*

SHARE prices yesterday fell 1.3 percent, hitting a new 10-year-low as bearish sentiments continued to weigh down the market, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 13.06 points to 988.04.

This was the lowest close since Oct. 11, 1991, when it settled at 985.47 points.

"This is the continuation of the bearish trend. There is no solution in sight in terms of the external problem caused by the attacks (on Afghanistan) and the terrorism," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities.

Volume turnover fell to 205.96 million shares while value rose to P343.5 million from 358.29 million shares worth P251.524 million on Monday.

Ayala Corp. fell five centavos to P4.50 while its real estate-arm, Ayala Land Inc. dropped 10 centavos to P4.05.

Bank of the Philippine Islands fell P2 to P42 while Petron Corp. lost 4 centavos to P1.10.

SM Prime Holdings and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. both remained unchanged at P5.40 and P170 respectively. *AFP*

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

TEXAS Instruments Philippines Inc. has decided to push back its $100-million expansion project at the Baguio City economic zone to 2003 due to the uncertain outlook on the electronics industry particularly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

This was revealed by TI Philippines president and managing director Norberto Viera who told reporters yesterday that the company has cut down its workforce and that it was expecting its exports to fall by 25 percent this year.

Viera said Texas Instruments' expansion project, scheduled for completion this year, has been deferred to 2003 as part of the company's strategy to steel itself amid the downturn in the industry.

The project would have expanded Texas Instrument's production of semiconductor and other materials used for broadband, switching, and Internet equipment.

Viera said the company has implemented an early retirement program that trimmed down 5 percent of its workforce in order to keep a leaner organization in the wake of the market downturn.

The company's export earnings are expected to fall by 25 percent this year to $1.5 billion from $2 billion in 2000.

In his presentation to members of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) yesterday, Viera showed a grim picture of the computer chip industry—sales have been falling for the last 10 months; capacity utilization has fallen to record lows and electronic exports are down 40 percent from last year.

Viera said semiconductor sales were expected to fall by 30 percent this year. Although the industry is expected to rebound by 10 percent to 12 percent next year (the industry has historically grown by 20 percent after each down year) beginning the second half, Viera stressed that the impact of the Sept. 11 attacks on the industry remained unknown.

TI Philippines is Texas Instruments' biggest and most productive outfit (it accounts for nearly 50 percent of the group's $12 billion annual sales) and is acknowledged worldwide as the producer of DSP or the digital signal processors used in all Nokia phones, 80 percent of Ericsson phones and 60 percent of Motorola phones.

# DOF seeks 50% cut in corporate income tax

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance, in a new proposal submitted to Congress, has sought a more than 50-percent cut in the income tax rate on corporations and the imposition of the same rate on self-employed individuals.

A ranking DOF official said the department would push for the lowering of the corporate income tax rate from 32 percent to 15 percent and the application of the same rate on self-employed tax payers.

These measures were in line with the government's efforts to simplify the tax system, lower the tax rates and widen the tax base while rationalizing the list of allowed deductions for businesses.

The DOF is pursuing tax reforms on a per sector basis. The new strategy is expected to be more efficient and less tedious for the government. It is also expected to stand a better chance of getting a congressional approval.

In a presentation to industry groups, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the new measures were contained in the proposed income tax reforms for corporations, self-employed individuals and professionals.

Under the plan, self-employed individuals, who are now paying taxes based on their individual income brackets, and corporations will be slapped a uniform tax rate since both generate "business-related income."

DOF/ B5

**REESE CALL CENTER TO OPEN IN SUBIC**

Ralph Reese (second from L), chair and CEO of Reese Bros., announced his company's plan to open a major call center facility in Subic Freeport during a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo last Monday. Reese was accompanied to Malacañang by Crown Peak Hotels chair Anthony Trillo (left), Reese Bros. consultant (second from R) and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. Reese Bros. is one of the largest private held call center companies in the US. It is putting up its Subic call center in Crown Peak Hotel.

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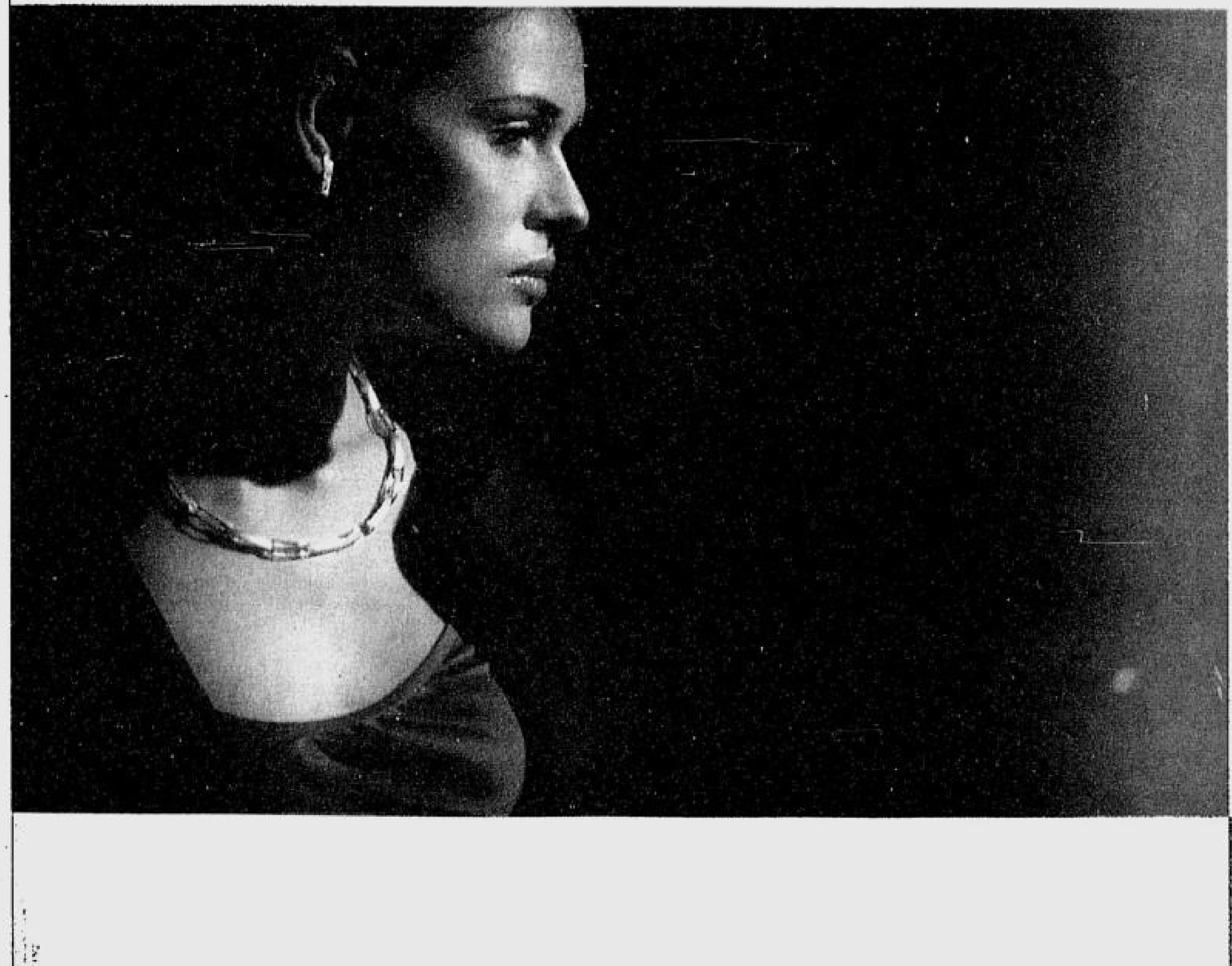

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| BMW 318ia | 1,975,000 | 691,250 | 30,000 |
| BMW 318ia Exec | 2,125,000 | 743,750 | 35,000 |
| BMW 323ia | 2,400,000 | 840,000 | 37,500 |
| BMW 325ia | 2,550,000 | 892,500 | 42,000 |
| BMW 325ia Exec | 2,650,000 | 927,500 | 45,000 |
| BMW 523ia | 3,095,000 | 1,083,250 | 50,000 |

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# SMC slashes offer for Cosmos by P1B

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. has lowered its offer for RFM Corp.'s soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. by at least P1 billion, from P15 billion to P14 billion.

INQUIRER sources said that after its due diligence audit, the SMC conglomerate, which is negotiating with RFM in behalf of subsidiary Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., wanted to slash its offer for the purchase of Cosmos from P6.50 per share to P5.80.

The sources said, however, that RFM has yet to decide on the price discount although it was expecting the deal to be finalized soon.

To date, RFM and SMC are still in the thick of negotiations over the terms of the acquisition of the country's second biggest soft drink bottling company, next to CCBPI.

SMC has been reportedly seeking as much as P3 billion in discount, dragging down the share price of Cosmos in the past few days.

Minority shareholders of Cosmos are awaiting the final structure of the deal, particularly the acquisition price. The deal will involve a tender offer provision wherein minority shareholders will be offered the same price as that offered to RFM for its 82.3-percent stake in Cosmos.

Earlier reports said SMC wanted to lower the valuation of Cosmos after it found out that some of its facilities were no longer in good condition.

RFM officials said the company was determined to stick it out with SMC, brushing aside speculations that the company has been considering an alternative offer from US-based Pepsico Inc.

If the deal pushes through, the acquisition of Cosmos will give the SMC group a 90-percent control of the local soft drink market. CCBPI, which was recently reacquired by SMC, will take over the CBC business in partnership with Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Co.

The deal is expected to cover the brands Pop Cola, Sarsi, Rootbeer and Jaz. It, however, will exclude Cosmos' bottled water business. The memorandum of understanding earlier signed by the two parties also included a 10-year non-compete clause.

Cosmos reported a 34-percent growth in sales in the third quarter of the year, hitting a record high of P5.6 billion compared with P4.2 billion the same period last year.

Cosmos' sales volume expanded by 21 percent during the period despite the sluggish market for soft drinks due to weaker consumer spending and the rainy months.

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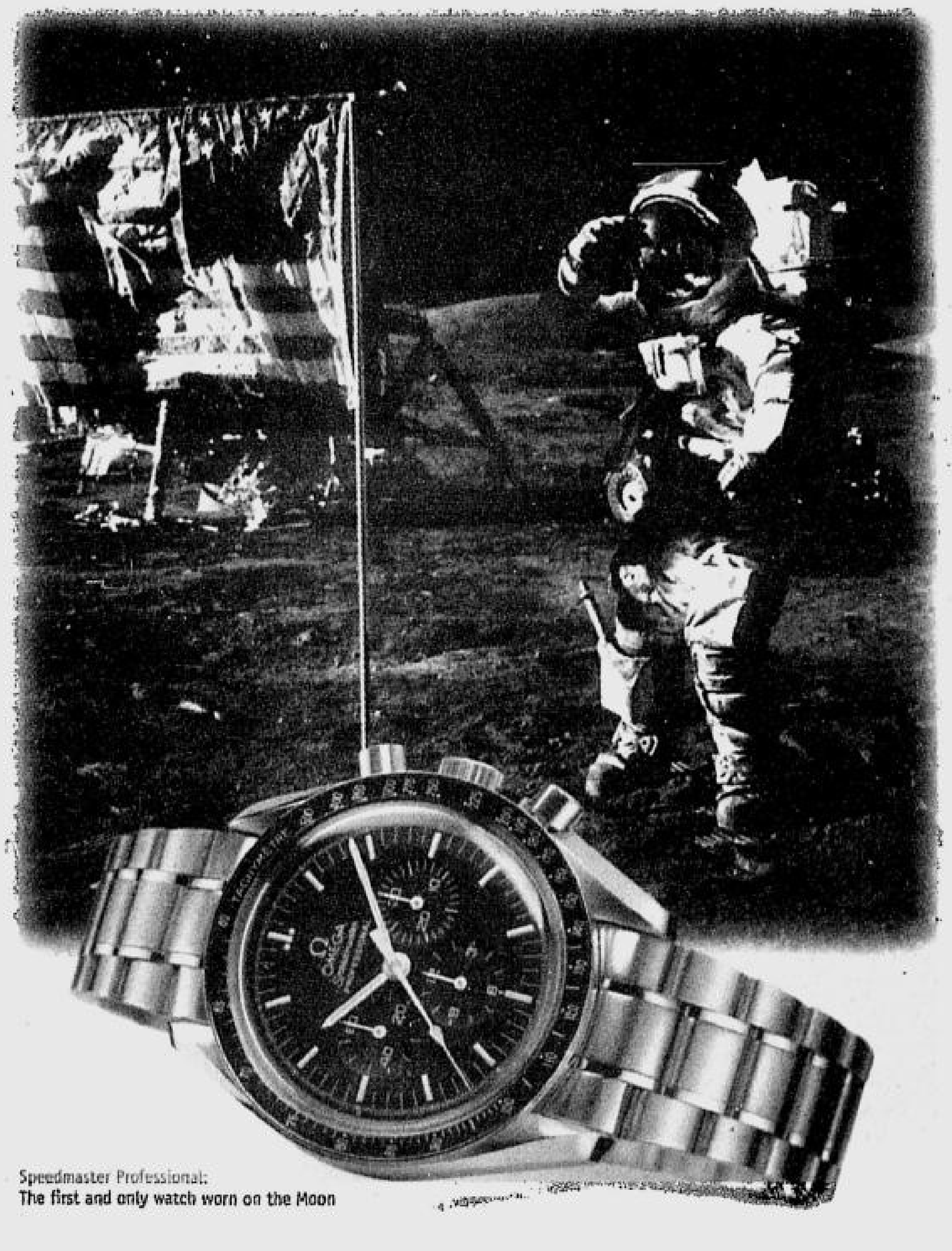

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## Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, October 23, 2001)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Banks & financial services | | | | | |
| **Banks** | | | | | |
| Bank of the Philippine Islands | 43.5 | 43.5 | 42 | 42 | 1,267,500 |
| Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. | 17 | 17.25 | 17 | 17.25 | 26,400 |
| First e-Bank Corporation | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 2,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company | 172 | 174 | 169 | 170 | 43,200 |
| Philippine National Bank | 47 | 47.5 | 47 | 47 | 47,600 |
| Philippine Savings Bank | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 1,000 |
| Union Bank of the Philippines | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 2,000 |
| **Financial services** | | | | | |
| Manulife Financial Corporation | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 150 |
| Sun Life Financial Srv's. of Canada, Inc | 1,020.00 | 1,025.00 | 1,020.00 | 1,025.00 | 890 |
| Bankard, Inc. | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 100,000 |
| Filipino Fund, Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 60,000 |
| Commercial & Industrial | | | | | |
| **Communications** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25 | 25 | 6,500 |
| Digital Telecommunications Phils., Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 240,000 |
| Globe Telecom, Inc. | 560 | 560 | 560 | 560 | 5,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings, Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 90,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 3,000 |
| Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. | 350 | 362.5 | 350 | 362.5 | 22,540 |
| PhilWeb.Com, Inc. | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 88,800,000 |
| Transportation services | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Terminal Services, Inc. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1,724,000 |
| Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc. | 0.36 | 0.43 | 0.36 | 0.43 | 470,000 |
| William, Gothong and Aboitiz, Inc. | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 2,000 |
| Power & energy | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Company "A" | 21.25 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 10,400 |
| Manila Electric Company "B" | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 170,200 |
| Petron Corporation | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 6,713,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 10,000 |
| Construction & other related products | | | | | |
| Alsons Cement Corporation | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 140,000 |
| DMCI Holdings, Inc. | 0.14 | 0.145 | 0.14 | 0.145 | 20,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 100,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 50,000 |
| Food, beverage & tobacco | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corporation | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.08 | 21,000 |
| Cosmos Bottling Corporation | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 1,134,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corporation | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 1,147,500 |
| La Tondena Distillers, Inc. | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24,000 |
| Pure Foods Corporation "A" | 78 | 78 | 77 | 77 | 200 |
| RFM Corporation | 1.9 | 2.02 | 1.88 | 2.02 | 2,150,000 |
| Central Azucarera Don Pedro | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 80,000 |
| San Miguel Corporation "A" | 39 | 39.5 | 39 | 39 | 38,200 |
| San Miguel Corporation "B" | 43.5 | 44 | 43.5 | 43.5 | 202,800 |
| Holding firms | | | | | |
| Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs, Inc. "A" | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 50,000 |
| Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs, Inc. "B" | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 10,000 |
| Ayala Corporation | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.45 | 4.5 | 2,979,000 |
| A. Soriano Corporation | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 230,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 1,000,000 |
| Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corporation | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 20,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corporation | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.67 | 0.68 | 5,930,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corporation | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 110,000 |
| First Phil. Holdings Corp. | 22.75 | 22.75 | 22.75 | 22.75 | 53,500 |
| Global Equities, Inc. | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 200,000 |
| JG Summit Holdings, Inc. | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.18 | 1.2 | 816,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corporation | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.19 | 0.2 | 670,000 |
| Music Corporation | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 200,000 |
| SM Development Corporation | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 10,000 |
| Hotel, recreation & other services | | | | | |
| Fairmont Holdings, Inc. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 40,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club, Inc. | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club, Inc. | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 40,000 |
| Waterfront Philippines, Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 60,000 |
| **Manufacturing, distribution & trading** | | | | | |
| A Brown Company, Inc. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 20,000 |
| Euro-Med Laboratories Phil., Inc. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 11,000 |
| Solid Group, Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 10,000 |
| Bonds, preferred & warrants | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Holdings Corporation Pref. | 25.5 | 26 | 25.5 | 26 | 2,367,700 |
| DMCI Holdings, Inc. Pref. | 520 | 520 | 520 | 520 | 6,660 |
| PLDT (10% PREF.) Series U | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% PREF.) Series Z | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2,400 |
| PLDT (10% PREF.) Series AA | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. "Warrants 2003" | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 200,000 |
| PhilWeb.Com, Inc. "Warrants" | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.0044 | 0.0046 | 42,000,000 |
| Mining | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Company, Inc. "A" | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 100,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 30,000 |
| Dizon Copper Silver Mines, Inc. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 3,000 |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines, Inc. "A" | 0.021 | 0.021 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 7,400,000 |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines, Inc. "B" | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 200,000 |
| Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A" | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 200,000 |
| Omico Corporation | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 1,000,000 |
| Polar Mines and Development Corporation | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 2,000,000 |
| Oil | | | | | |
| Interport Resources Corporation "A" | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A" | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 3,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B" | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 3,000,000 |
| Pacifica, Inc. "A" | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 1,000,000 |
| South China Resources, Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 10,000 |
| Property | | | | | |
| Ayala Land, Inc. | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.05 | 4.05 | 1,931,000 |
| Araneta Properties, Inc. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 1,790,000 |
| Cityland Development Corporation | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corporation | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 1,210,000 |
| Empire East Land Holdings, Inc. | 0.195 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 2,390,000 |
| Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs, Inc. | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 400,000 |
| Filinvest Land, Inc. | 1.1 | 1.12 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 6,237,000 |
| City and Land Developers, Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 50,000 |
| Robinson Land Corporation | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 94,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings, Inc. | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 3,913,000 |

## CURRENCIES

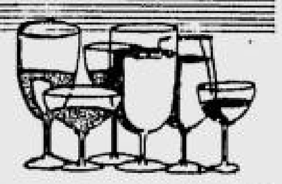
Oct. 23, 2001

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency In US$ | Foreign currency In Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.121453 | 1.000000 | 51.7780 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.009156 | 0.008164 | 0.4227 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.597623 | 1.424600 | 73.7629 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.143961 | 0.128370 | 6.6467 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.675697 | 0.602519 | 31.1972 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.710996 | 0.633995 | 32.8270 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.613386 | 0.546956 | 28.3203 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.568688 | 0.507099 | 26.2566 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.974836 | 2.652661 | 137.3495 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.299055 | 0.266667 | 13.8075 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.613822 | 0.547345 | 28.3404 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000111 | 0.000099 | 0.0051 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.025077 | 0.022361 | 1.1578 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.305407 | 0.272331 | 14.1008 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000864 | 0.000770 | 0.0399 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.891700 | 46.1704 |
| Germany | Mark | 0.511292 | 0.455919 | 23.6066 |
| France | Franc | 0.152450 | 0.135939 | 7.0386 |
| Netherlands | Guilder | 0.453780 | 0.404636 | 20.9512 |
| Austria | Schilling | 0.072672 | 0.064802 | 3.3553 |
| Belgium | Franc | 0.024790 | 0.022105 | 1.1446 |
| Italy | Lire | 0.000517 | 0.000461 | 0.0239 |
| Finland | Markka | 0.168188 | 0.149973 | 7.7653 |
| Portugal | Escudo | 0.004988 | 0.004448 | 0.2303 |
| Spain | Peseta | 0.006010 | 0.005359 | 0.2775 |
| Luxembourg | Franc | 0.024790 | 0.022105 | 1.1446 |
| Ireland | Punt | 1.269738 | 1.132225 | 58.6243 |

# Pressed at Benpres

**COCKTALES**

*By Victor C. Agustin*



THE LOPEZES of ABS-CBN are selling *Miss Iloilo*, the yacht acquired by their late patriarch Eugenio Lopez III during the go-go Ramos years, as part of the Benpres-wide drive to cut costs and meet foreign debt payments.

*Miss Iloilo* is currently docked in Subic Bay Yacht Club, which is itself also being buffeted by the tempestuous economic weather.

The disposal of the yacht, estimated to have been acquired anywhere between $3 million and $5 million, highlights a painful readjustment currently underway inside the conglomerate that is noted for its generous salaries and executive perks, according to tidbits trickling through the corporate grapevine.

For example, the broadcast giant has already junked its coveted overseas planning sessions (the last one was held in San Francisco) in favor of Baguio City and the company-owned Antipolo retreat.

The executive car plan has also been stretched, from every three years now to four-five years.

Even the ticker tape in the ANC stock market show has not been spared by the cost-cutter's scalpel. It is no longer there.

To cut down production costs, the ANC has lately been shifting to talk shows, such that among themselves, the ANC hosts/hostesses are competing for the same guests and inevitably featuring the same topics.

And in the rare times that any Benpres, ABS-CBN or Bayantel executive invites for lunch/dinner, chances are that the invite will be in either the 9501 (the ABS-CBN executive tower adjoining the Bohol Avenue studios) top room, Fernando's at company-owned Rockwell, or the ex-Grassi's in Chronicle building in Ortigas.

### Attaboy, Teddy Boy

IN case you have not passed Buendia lately, you would be pleasantly surprised to find that, after years of benign (not Binay) neglect, the pocked-marked thoroughfare is now being re-paved.

Instead of the usual patchwork, bulldozers began ripping off the entire lane last weekend prior to pouring a new asphalt overlay.

Despite being a Sunday, the construction crew exhibited the same zeal patching up the busy road as, say, a middle-age man pouring Minoxidil on his balding pate.

Lest the motorists forget, the roadwork crew had the usual congressional billboard, this time reminding the taxpayers that the pork barrel came from newly minted Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Last Sunday's work began at the Buendia stretch right after the flyover, around the corner where Locsin's community paper has its offices.

### Salceda's sally

WHEN he was still a top-paid financial analyst, Rep. Joey Salceda constantly lectured the government about its profligate ways.

Now that he is on the other side of the fence, the gentleman from Albay seems to have caught the same disease he had been warning about.

Salceda celebrated his nth birthday the other night at the Makati Shangri-la no less, where a sit-down dinner in the hotel's humongous ballroom overflowed with constituents, well-wishers and lobbyists.

According to one guest, there was even a private room reserved for the VIP guests who prefer not to be seen with the lesser invitees.

### Heard through the grapevine

THE MULTIBILLION-PESO problems of Uniwide and now Ramcar have weighed down on receiver Monico Jacob.

Largely due to work pressures, the former SEC commissioner/Petron chairman has developed Bell's palsy, a paralysis of the facial nerve wherein the sufferer is unable to open an eye and/or close the mouth.

Doctors have prescribed total rest and respite from cantankerous creditors/debtors, among others.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# Substandard steel items proliferate in local market

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LOW-GRADE steel products, particularly galvanized iron sheets and rebars, have once again proliferated in the market as unscrupulous steelmakers disregard product standards to cope with the economic crisis.

An industry source said the Department of Trade and Industry has been helpless in monitoring the rampant sale of poor quality steel products because of lack of resources and the sheer number of retailers and producers in the market.

With the government unable to crack down on erring companies, the industry source said that a growing number of steelmakers had been forced to resort to producing low-grade products in order to compete with their rivals.

The source said many steelmakers could not afford to play by the rule because their rivals were selling at below production cost as they use raw materials that were below the thickness standards imposed by the DTI-Bureau of Product Standards. This is why consumers have to be more vigilant in their purchases of GI sheets and rebars by checking whether they are buying the standard goods, the source said.

The DTI had been unable to carry out its vow to tighten its monitoring of low-quality steel products because its national and regional offices do not have enough manpower to police the market on a regular basis. The industry consists of 70 rebar makers, 16 GI sheet producers, and hundreds of retailers.

The DTI's efforts to penalize erring firms have likewise been stymied in the courts as one of the offenders was able to obtain a temporary restraining order stopping the agency from taking further action.

Steelmakers have signed a memorandum of agreement with the Confederation of Homeowners for Reforms in Governance and Environment (CHARGE) and Consumers Union of the Philippines designating the two consumer groups as the watchdogs that will monitor the market and ensure that retailers are not ripping off their clients.

# Bank loans to grow by only 3%

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has given up on its target of posting a 10-percent credit growth this year as loans extended by the banking sector continued to mirror the declining business activity in the country.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said loans extended by banks might increase by only 3 percent this year, or lower than the 7 percent registered last year.

"We will be happy with a 3-percent loan growth. Any increase is better than nothing," said Buenaventura.

The central bank chief said borrowers refused to tap new loans despite the low interest rates in the previous months.

He said that banks, that were still coping with rising levels of soured credits, have also been hesitant to extend new loans.

"I hope things will improve soon. Nobody expected that the economic slowdown would be this severe," Buenaventura said.

As of July, loans extended by banks grew by only 2.2 percent, lower than the 3-percent growth registered in the previous month.

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF OCTOBER 24, 2001

| | BUYING | SELLING |
|---|---|---|
| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B* | - | 1.5/1.7 M* |
| BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 700,000 | 750,000 |
| CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B* | - | 100,000/105,000 * |
| CAMP JOHN HAY | - | 300,000 |
| CAPITOL HILLS | 125,000 | 130,000 |
| CELEBRITY SPORTS | 210,000 | 215,000 |
| EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C** | 350,000/520,000 ** | 375,000/450,000*/700,000 ** |
| FOREST HILLS A/B*/C** | 230,000 | 240,000/350,000*/450,000 ** |
| MAKATI SPORTS A/B* | - | 300,000/400,000 * |
| METRO CLUB A/B* | - | 150,000/170,000 * |
| MANILA POLO CLUB | | 2,700,000 |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B* | - | 680,000/850,000 * |
| ORCHARD A/B*/C** | 600,000 ** | 250,000/425,000 * |
| RIVIERA GOLF A/B* | - | 230,000/400,000 * |
| ROCKWELL CLUB | 500,000 | 550,000 |
| STA. ELENA GOLF | - | 1,650,000 |
| TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF* | 800,000 * | 375,000/900,000 * |
| TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 760,000 | 800,000 |
| VALLE VERDE IND./CORP. | 170,000/290,000 * | 190,000/325,000 * |
| WACK WACK | - | 6.8 M |

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## DISCLOSURES

**EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc.** will increase its authorized capital stock by 100 million common shares at P1 par value. Global E-business Solutions Inc will subscribe to 52 million shares.

* * *

**PRUDENTIAL Bank** announced the resignation of Virginia Syjuco as director of the bank. Also, the bank named members of its audit committee the following board members: William Tiosic, Roman Santos, Augusto Estrada, Mario Santos Jr. and Andres Mangahas.

* * *

**WELLEX Industries Inc.** denied having any information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price last Oct. 12.

* * *

ELECTED new director of **Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.** was Charles Yap Giok Twee.

* * *

**ALSONS Cement Corp.** will move to its new office at Level 3, Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center in Makati City.

* * *

RE-ELECTED directors of **Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.** were Espridion Laxa, Cirio Santiago, Roberto Atendido, Antonio Ong, Anselmo Trinidad Jr., Teofilo Henson and Anastacio Diaz Jr.

* * *

**CHEMPHIL Group** disclosed that the Department of Natural Resources and the Pasig City government have separately issued temporary lifting orders that allowed the company to operate its sulfuric plant for 30 days.

* * *

**PIILIPINO Telephone Corp.** increased its Class 1 Series J preferred stock by 1.2 million shares. The shares will be offered to **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** for subscription at P1,000 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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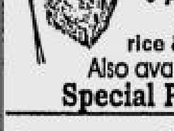

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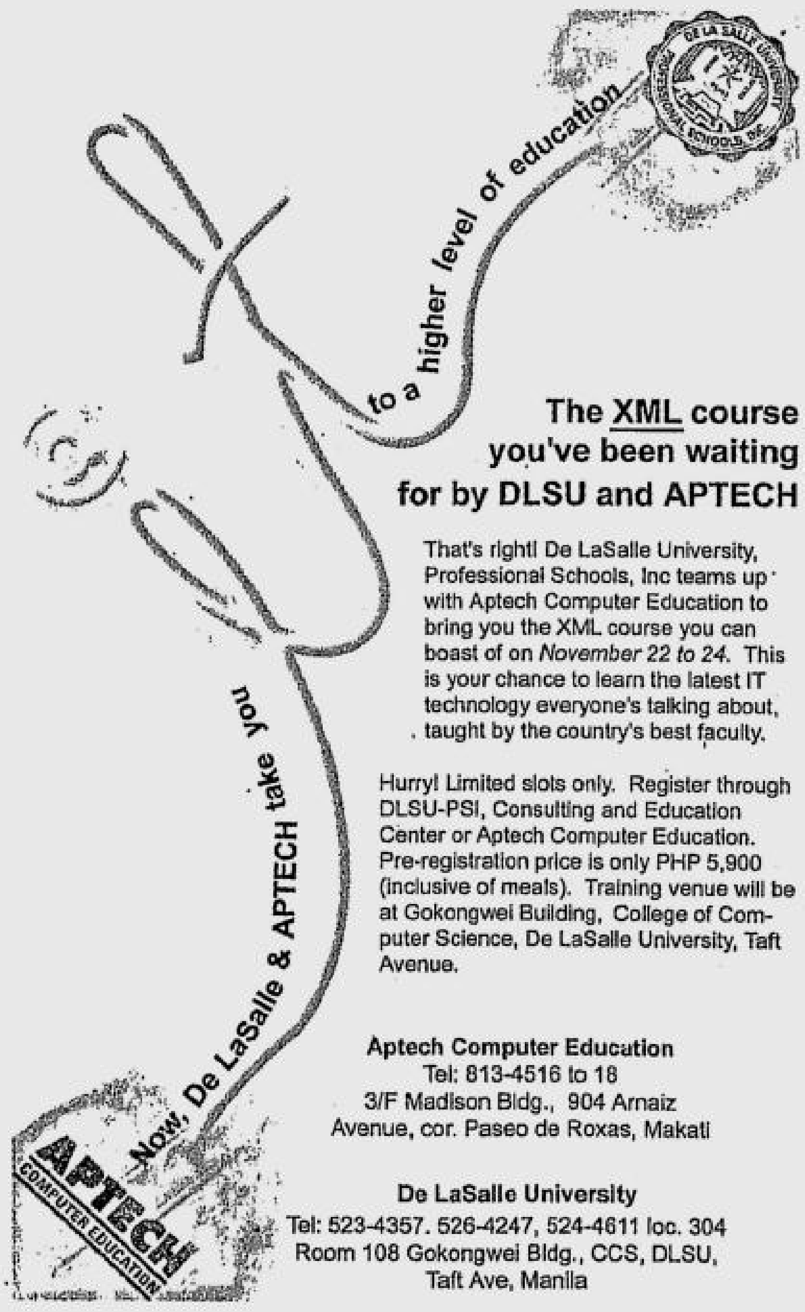
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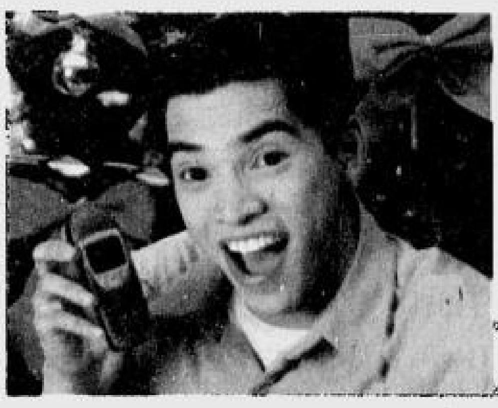
Room 108 Gokongwei Bldg., CCS, DLSU, Taft Ave, Manila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  President, Motolite & Oriental Corporation
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  Mr. Chito Madroño
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- **E-commerce for SMEs-Puwede ba iyan?**
  Mr. Doji A.B. Lopez
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  Mr. Arturo Mercader
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# Yulon plans to sell China-made units

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

YULON Motor Co. Ltd., Taiwan's biggest auto assembler and parts maker, said yesterday it was planning to sell new Nissan models assembled either from its plants in Taiwan or China to sustain its operations pending an end to its labor problems.

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. assistant vice president for corporate planning Valentin de Leon said Yulon was studying where it would acquire new models, specifically the MPV minivan that would be the company's main bet in the resilient commercial vehicle category.

"We would really like to build more models here, but if the situation proves to be unfavorable, we have no recourse but to source them on a CBU (completely built-up) basis," De Leon said in a statement.

De Leon said Yulon also decided to put on hold its plan to put in more money in its Philippine operations because of its labor problems.

Yulon earlier planned to bring in auto parts makers from Taiwan as part of a big plan to make the Philippines its production hub in Southeast Asia by 2003.

The INQUIRER had reported that Yulon was seriously considering stopping its assembly operations in the Philippines after a strike by its union forced it to shut its plant down on Oct. 1.

De Leon clarified that Yulon had no plans of pulling out of the country, as it continued to map out its long-term plans for the continued sale of Nissan vehicles here.

Yulon invested some P1.2 billion to get 31 percent and management control of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. in 1999. It currently assembles the Nissan Cefiro and Sentra Exalta models.

De Leon said the work slowdown that started in July had already cost Yulon over P30 million in losses. This will pile up as long as the company's assembly lines remain idle, he said.

De Leon warned that the labor unrest would have "far-reaching effects" on the industry and the economy.

"It would be for the benefit of the Philippine economy if the industrial peace is maintained. Otherwise, Philippine investments would have no competitive advantage," he said.

# BSP says no big bank mergers

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday ruled out any big mergers among banks in the immediate future due to ownership and financial problems.

"The big ones that have not merged either cannot merge because of pending ownership issues or problems with capital and financial health," Buenaventura said in a news briefing.

The Philippine National Bank, the country's sixth-largest bank, has yet to start a rehabilitation program and owes the central bank at least P25 billion.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., the No. 8 lender, is still looking for new capital before making a big acquisition, while Allied Banking Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank, the country's ninth and 10th largest, are still resolving ownership issues.

"The big ones are still busy trying to sort out their own mergers and may not find time to accommodate a new merger," Buenaventura told reporters.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest bank, has yet to incorporate into its system Solid Banking Corp. and Global Bank, which it acquired last year. *Clarissa S. Batino*

# Dos Palmas Resort closes down

CITING poor sales and heavy financial obligations, Dos Palmas Resorts, an island-resort in Palawan, has gone out of business.

In a statement, the company said that since the Abu Sayyaf attack on the resort last May, management had tried to keep the business, hoping that it would not have to lay off any of its 130 employees.

"We kept all our employees despite poor sales for the last five months.

We were hoping and praying that things would turn around, but the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US finally made the decision for us," the company said.

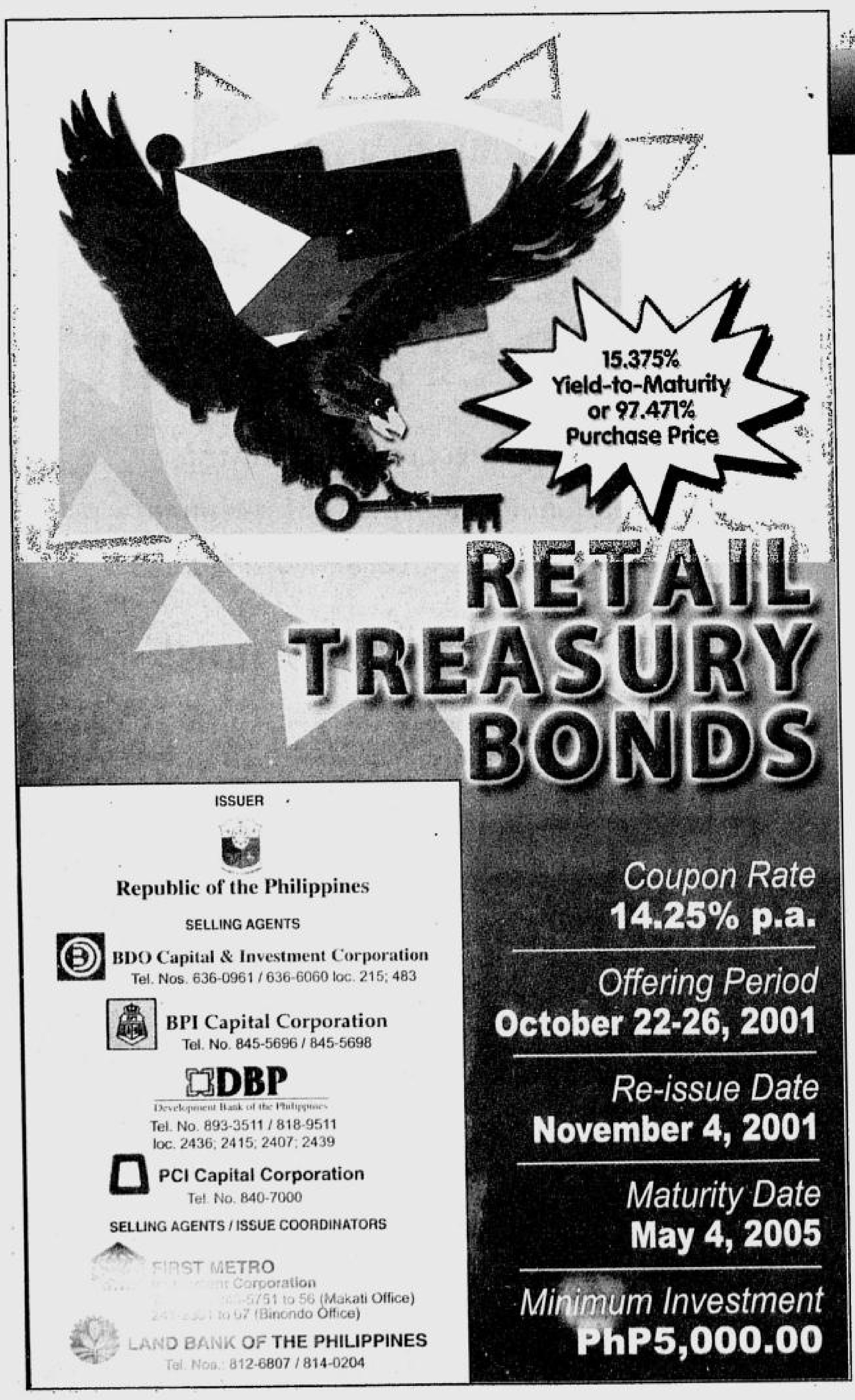
Dos Palmas said it was now reviewing the viability of the resort and was looking at various options. It declined to give further details.

Established in 1998, Dos Palmas Resort was regularly booking a full house this year—supposedly its banner year—until the May attack happened.

Prior to the incident, local and foreign guests used to come in droves to the resort. In fact, it was starting to get bookings for big conventions from foreign companies and financial institutions due to its modern convention facilities, which can accommodate as many as 150 delegates.

Last year, Dos Palmas played host to the prestigious Miss Asia-Pacific beauty pageant and only last weekend, it hosted the swimsuit competition of the first-ever Miss Earth beauty contest.

Despite its decision to close down and the downturn in the overall prospects of the business, the company said it still believed that tourism holds the key to many of the country's economic problems.



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# DOF seeks 50% . . .

(From page B1)

"Aligning the tax treatment of corporation's and self-employed simplifies the taxation process. It will lead to better compliance and tax administration, and enhance the fairness of the income tax system ," said Camacho in his presentation.

Lowering the tax rate should lead to increased investments, improved profitability of companies and better employment opportunities.

The losses that will arise from the rate cut, Camacho said, would be compensated through the expansion of the tax base.

Another objective, said Camacho, was to rationalize the list of allowable business deductions so that only to direct costs related to the conduct of business would be covered.

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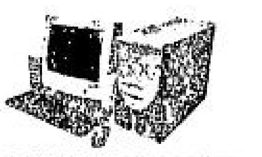

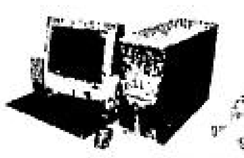

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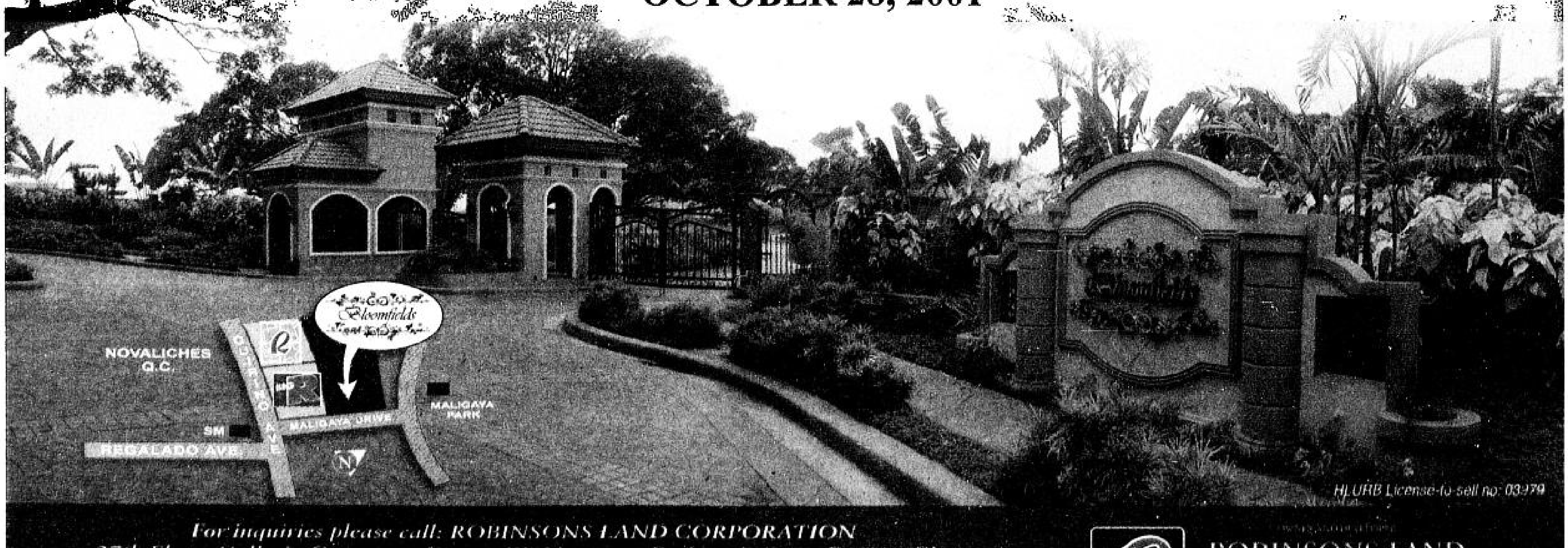

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

### AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

In a letter to stockholders/members of the Baguio Country Club dated 2 October 2001, Erlinda Kalaw Ilusorio made several allegations against the Club and its Officers and Management which we now clarify through this open letter for the benefit of our stockholders, our members and the general public. We will try to avoid issues pertaining to the on-going "Ilusorio Feud" which should not have been mentioned in the first place.

Fact : Potenciano (Nanoy) Ilusorio himself voted his bloc of shares at the stockholders' meetings in 1998 and 1999 together with the other shareholders to elect the incumbent Directors and Officers of the Club.

Fact : The present Board of Directors, Officers and Management introduced significant improvements during their tenure. These are bermuda fairways of the golf courses, improved larger greens and tee-boxes, 3 deep lakes as hazard and water catch basin, covered tennis courts/multi-purpose center, expanded verandahs, 2 heated swimming pools, jacuzzi, new President's Room, state of the art business center, new Hamada Japanese restaurant, new Par 7 golfers' haven, new fitness center, new beauty parlor, new barber shop and new utilities building and facility.

Fact : The funds of the Club are subject to strict audit by its external auditor, Joaquin Cunanan and Co. The allegation of wastage and diversion is without any basis. The long term debt of 90 Million Pesos had been fully settled and with its prudent management, the Club remains in sound financial health and is one of the few clubs which is cash rich and debt-free. Despite the improvements made in the last four years, we are proud to announce that our cash reserves of 145 Million Pesos remain intact and available for future development and needs of the Club.

Fact : The Club has become a landmark with the best accommodations, dining and recreation facilities in Baguio City. Members or guests of members avail of the Club facilities whenever they are in Baguio.

Fact : The election of directors every two years was an amendment duly approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission and is also practiced by other clubs in the Philippines. Erlinda Kalaw Ilusorio cannot claim perpetuation when she is in fact actively soliciting and campaigning for proxies for the election of directors on 7 November 2001.

Fact : Erlinda Kalaw Ilusorio claims she wants to preserve the legacy of Nanoy. She has repeatedly tried to declare Nanoy incompetent and install her son Ramon K. Ilusorio who opposed and refused to speak to his own father for 35 years. The Supreme Court has upheld with finality the competence of Nanoy.

We thank you for your patience and understanding and we pledge our firm commitment to integrity and excellence in the pursuit of the future plans of the Club which will be celebrating its centennial in February 2005.

23 October 2001.

**BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB MANAGEMENT**

By:

FEDERICO R. AGCAOILI
President

CABLE ROW

# Star TV says it's still open to a settlement

STAR Group Ltd. said yesterday it was still open to negotiations with three major cable companies despite its decision to pull out its popular channels over debts worth about P160 million.

In a statement, company vice president for distribution David Ilagan said Star was still willing to settle problems it had with SkyCable operator Sky Vision Corp., Home Cable Inc. and Pilipino Cable Corp. over fees and unpaid debts.

"Our doors are still open," Ilagan said, but he stressed that these cable TV operators would have to show "good faith."

"We've been negotiating with Home and Sky for close to a year now, and we've gotten nowhere," Ilagan said.

"We were told unequivocally by both parties that there was no prospect of their debt being cleared this year. We were also told that there was no prospect of any further fees for October, November and December being paid this year," he added.

Star has pulled out its programs, including popular channels like ESPN, Star Sports, Star Movies, Channel [V] and Viva Cinema, because of the inability of Sky, Home and Pilipino Cable to settle their debts.

Ilagan disclosed that Sky and Home earlier agreed to pay their fees on a monthly instead of an annual basis, but the two companies were unable to live up to their commitments.

Last week, he said, Sky and Home informed Star that their fees would no longer be kept current.

Disputing claims that Star withdrew its programs abruptly, Ilagan said Star decided on this course of action only after issuing several written notices to Sky, Home and Pilipino Cable.

"We previously extended these deadlines several times at the request of Home and Sky. It was, therefore, not an unexpected turn of events, the more so because the National Geographic and Star Sports channels had been de-authorized for 10 days previously as a clear indication of our willingness to follow up on the collection of overdue bills," Ilagan said.

Ilagan also denied accusations that Star was forcing Sky, Home and Pilipino Cable to take in all its channels.

"We initially offered them six Star and ESS channels, to be taken *a la carte* or as a bundle at a reduced rate per subscriber. In subsequent negotiations, Sky and Home offered to carry five of our channels (ESPN, Star sports, Star movies, Star World and National Geographic), and elected not to carry the sixth, the popular Viva Cinema channel," Ilagan said.

Star agreed to provide Sky and Home only five channels and even offered them an even lower per subscriber rate. It also offered foreign exchange protection and volume discounts, apart from a concession that this rate would be paid on a 100-percent declared sub basis, he said.

"Because cable companies expected substantial return over the next quarter when they raise their prices, this risk of a downturn was, therefore, to be borne by Star, and we agreed to this," Ilagan said.

# NSC committee moves auction

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE EVALUATION committee overseeing the hunt for an interim investor of National Steel Corp. has moved the submission of offers to Thursday to give Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co. more time to gloss over the terms of reference for the selection.

The committee will start the evaluation process on Monday.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the committee unanimously voted to move the deadline for submission of offers.

Roxas said the committee successfully rebuilt itself with representatives of Hottick Investment-Renong Bhd. and Danaharta attending yesterday's meeting, the first since the Malaysian owners of NSC withdrew from the committee to pursue its deal with Allengoal.

Roxas said only Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. and Voest Alpine submitted their offers, while Allengoal did not attend the meeting.

Capasco and Voest Alpine have agreed to come back on Thursday to resubmit their offers.

Roxas said NSC's creditor banks, who were represented in the committee, had been reluctant to delay the opening of offers for NSC because it could give Allengoal more time to get a temporary restraining order from the court to delay the reopening.

But Roxas convinced them that a couple of days delay would not bog down the process that, he said, was bolstered by the presence of Hottick-Renong and Danaharta.

Allengoal presi[illegible] Ale[illegible] Delmo said a deferment of yester[illegible] bidding would enable the committee to clarify to all parties involved the terms of the bidding.

Allengoal has threatened to delay the committee's work with legal suits if another party is chosen to run NSC's Iligan plant temporarily while the creditors and owners look for a long-term investor.

# BPI blocks sale of theme parks

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to deny the request of Uniwide group interim receiver committee chair Monico Jacob for permission to sell theme parks owned by Naic Resources & Development Corp.

Jacob asked the SEC to approve the sale of these parks to Westech Ltd. to retire Naic Resources' debts to Asian Alliance Investment Corp.

Asian Alliance will then release to Uniwide Holdings Inc. and Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp. shares of stocks and properties in Ternate, Cavite, under an amended rehabilitation plan approved by a panel of SEC lawyers last year.

BPI has opposed the implementation of the amended rehabilitation plan.

"Consistent with BPI's position from the very start, BPI is opposing this new move by the receivership committee," the bank said. "It does not appear sensible to partially execute or implement a rehabilitation plan that will create discrimination among creditors and whose viability is questionable."

BPI said it was also studying the second amended rehabilitation plan submitted by Jacob's committee and reserved the right to submit its comments at the appropriate time.

Jacob said some P2 billion out of Uniwide's P11 billion in debts would be liquidated from the sale of Naic Resources' theme parks.

# Piatco scored for bloating cost

By Clarissa S. Batino

AIRPORT service operators identified with the group of Philippine Airlines Inc.'s Lucio Tan accused yesterday the Philippine International Airport Terminal Co. of bloating the cost of building terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In an interview, Manila International Airport Association of Service Operators (Maso) chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. accused Piatco of jacking up the cost of the project from $300 million to $650 million.

Yasay, former head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, warned that the government would be on the losing end should it refuse to again amend the terms of the Naia-3 project.

The concession agreement covering the project was revised under the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

Yasay disclosed that from $300 million when the project was first approved by the Ramos administration, the cost of the project went up to $500 million a few months back and to $650 million a few days ago.

With the higher cost of building the project, Yasay said there was no doubt that Piatco would default on its loans and force the government to subsidize the project either by suspending the collection of P750 million in annual fees from the group or pay its creditors or both.

"The terms of this contract is so onerous and irregular. It is even worse than (the) BW (Resources Corp. scam)," said Yasay.

He was referring to a multibillion-peso stock scandal that involved BW Resources, a company controlled by businessman Dante Tan, one of Estrada's supporters.

Yasay, an appointee of former President Fidel Ramos, testified last year before a Senate impeachment court that Estrada tried to pressure him into dropping an SEC investigation into charges that Tan and a number of brokers manipulated the stock prices of BW Resources.

Maso, which counts Tan's PAL and MacroAsia Corp. and the Delgado family's Manila International Airport Services Corp. as members, is accusing Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez of backing Piatco.

The group has filed criminal charges against Alvarez before the Office of the Ombudsman, accusing him of colluding with Piatco and some airport officials in bloating the construction cost of the project by P76 million.

Alvarez owns 30 percent of Wintrack Builders Inc., which the group aligned with Tan has accused of completing five times the amount of earthworks and underground infrastructure necessary to build the terminal.

Reacting to these charges, Mark Mendoza, senior assistant to Piatco president Jefferson Cheng, said the cost of building Naia-3 grew to $650 million because of "real costs," among them the peso's depreciation against the dollar.

"Circumstances have changed from the time we won the project. It does not make sense for investors to bloat the cost of the project when the return on their equity depends on the success of the project," Mendoza said.

Piatco is 60 percent owned by groups led by the Cheng family. Its foreign partners include Frankfurt Airport Co. and Nissho Iwai Corp.

# PRCI selling Sta. Ana properties

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc., one of the country's oldest racing clubs, is selling a portion of its property in Sta. Ana, Makati, to raise funds to retire debts and jumpstart its relocation to a new racetrack in Cavite.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PRCI corporate secretary Jesulito Manalo said the company's board agreed to spin off 4 to 6 hectares of the property to a new subsidiary that would, in turn, be sold to a new investor.

PRCI has been planning to move to a new racetrack outside Metro Manila but it has been unable to implement it due to lack of funds.

The company has likewise been planning to convert its property in Makati into a commercial and residential center.

This is similar to a strategy being hatched by affiliate Manila Jockey Club Inc., which has already signed a deal with retail giant SM Prime Holdings Inc. of tycoon Henry Sy for the development of a 4-hectare property within its Sta. Ana racetrack.

Manalo said the board authorized PRCI chair Santiago Cua to negotiate with any party or parties interested to participate in the subsidiary.

But he said negotiations should allow PRCI to "raise funds that would enable it to service/pay its loan obligations to Allied Bank and to complete the development of the Cavite racetrack project."

PRCI was established in 1935 and listed in the stock exchange in 1952. It operates off-track betting stations equipped by computerized facilities.

The Westmont group, which took over the reins of MJCI and PRCI a few years ago, wanted to relocate the racetracks outside Metro Manila in order to redevelop existing property assets.

The transfer was also planned because the companies were under pressure to scout for alternative sources of revenues as its earnings from racing activities continued to shrink with rising costs and declining patronage.

# US indicators record biggest drop since '96

WASHINGTON—A key forecasting gauge for the US economy fell for a second straight month in September and posted its largest decline since early 1996, a private research firm said Monday, leading economists to conclude a recession may be imminent.

The Conference Board reported that the US index of leading economic indicators fell 0.5 percent in September, the largest drop since a 0.8-percent fall in January 1996, after a 0.1-percent drop in August.

Many economists believe the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon pushed the US economy into recession as shocked consumers cut spending.

"Today's news shows that the recession in manufacturing has now spilled over into the general economy," David Huether, National Association of Manufacturers chief economist, said in a statement.

"With consumer expectations faltering, the likelihood of a recession in the second half of the year is very strong."

David Orr, chief economist with Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina, said the board was "getting close" to forecasting a recession.

Nonetheless, US stocks rose mid-afternoon as upbeat earnings from blue-chip companies helped boost Wall Street's hopes for an economic rebound in coming months.

The September drop matched the expectations of Wall Street economists.

"The two-month decline in the index suggests that the already weak economy is likely to remain weak into next year," Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein said.

The board said in its report that without aggressive interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve this year—nine so far—September's drop "would have been much deeper."

Huether, lauding the Fed's moves, said: "The challenge now is for Congress to respond with confidence-building measures to lessen severity of the downturn."

An economic stimulus package worth $100 billion over the next year is making its way through Congress.

The Conference Board last month said its US Consumer Confidence Index slipped to 97.6 in September from 114.0 in August, a 14.4-percent drop.

The coincident index, which gauges current economic trends, fell 0.1 percent in September after being unchanged the prior month.

*Reuters*

**PRESIDENT** of Japanese automaker Honda Motor, Hiroyuki Yoshino, makes an address on the "DNA of Honda" at the Tokyo International Automobile Conference, Oct. 23. Leaders of the world's automakers are now here to attend the Tokyo Motor Show starting Oct. 24.

AFP

# Japan mulls yen change

TOKYO—Japanese Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka said on Tuesday that redenominating the yen was an "important option" as part of the government's structural reforms.

"I've been thinking that (a redenomination of the yen) would be an important option," Takenaka told reporters.

He said the time was ripe for the government to consider redenominating its currency as the risk of businesses taking advantage of such a change to hike prices had abated given Japan's struggle with deflation.

Redenomination has long been a topic of debate among politicians and economists, some of whom say it could help stimulate Japan's flagging economy.

Proponents have suggested that 100 yen could be changed to one new yen, putting the yen's denomination in line with the dollar and the euro. Under the new system, the dollar would be worth about 1.22 yen and the euro about 1.09 yen at current prices.

"Reforms mean bringing changes and making new history for Japan, so it would be meaningful from that standpoint," Takenaka said.

"I'm not saying we can do it tomorrow, but there is room to discuss (redenominating the yen) as structural reforms progress," he added.

Convertible government bonds

Takenaka also said Japan could use its assets, including its holdings of shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., as a way to issue convertible government bonds for funding purposes.

"Selling Japan's assets would be an important point. I've been thinking about this, but there could be a possibility of convertible government bonds just like there are convertible corporate bonds," he said.

*Reuters*

# Tech firms face more job cuts

TOKYO—Japan's hard-hit tech firms are set to report dire interim earnings and further slash full-year forecasts with more job cuts likely as the economic slump and impact of last month's terrorist blitz cripple profits, analysts say.

"The semiconductor business is the most likely to be affected because it is a global business and is effected easily by the global economy," said UBS Warburg technology analyst Yoshiharu Izumi.

"In terms of demand, excluding the events (of Sept. 11), there was already no driving force, so growth in the semiconductor market is likely to stay slow even after inventory adjustments," he said.

Leading computer maker Fujitsu Ltd. and No. 1 electrical machinery firm Hitachi Ltd. will release half-year results to September along with earnings forecasts for the year to March on Wednesday and Friday respectively.

"(Current company forecasts) don't discount the negative impact from the US attacks. Nobody knows how much the impact will be," said Merrill Lynch technology analyst Hitoshi Shin.

"For the second half of this fiscal year forecasts will go down," he said.

Even before the terrorist attacks and ensuing US-led military campaign in Afghanistan, slack demand for personal computers and mobile phones prompted Hitachi to slash its earnings forecast for the year to a 140 billion yen ($1.17 billion) group net loss, reversing an earlier estimate of a 90 billion yen net profit.

The group also plans to cut more than 15,000 jobs by March as well as spinning off its home appliance and industrial equipment businesses—a step in the right direction, but more must be done to offset hemorrhaging profit margins, analysts said.

*AFP*

# Disney workers to cut back jobs

ORLANDO, Florida—Walt Disney World officials asked some of their workers Monday to volunteer for a 20 percent cutback in hours and salary.

The company wants 7,400 full time employees to scale back their work week to 32 hours, saying it will save some jobs and preserve insurance and retirement benefits for employees, spokesperson Marilyn Waters said.

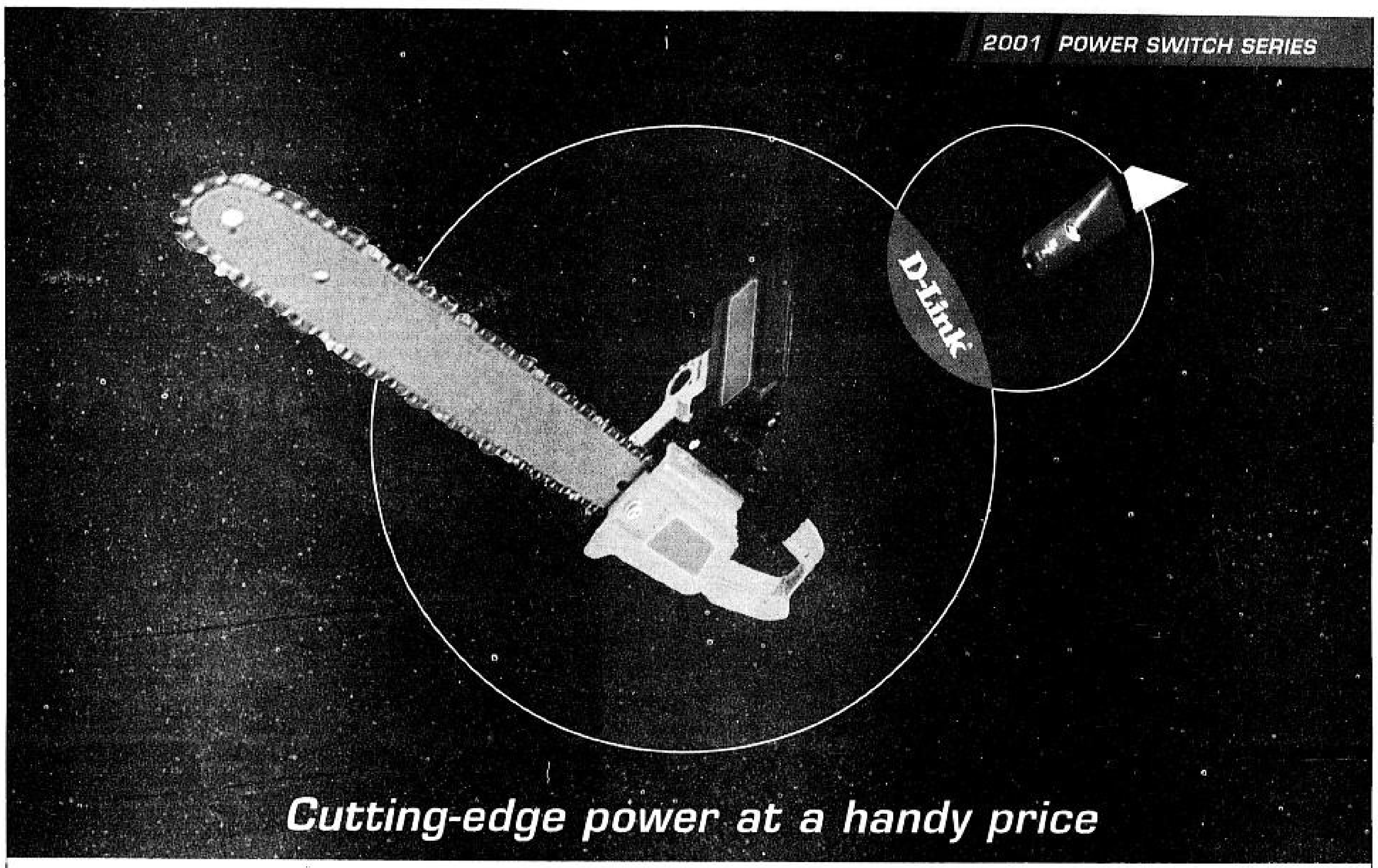
Waters said the voluntary work reductions were "an opportunity" to employees "because some people would like to do that for lifestyle reasons."

Disney also fired an unspecified number of highly paid contract workers in its technology department on Monday and reduced the hours of some attractions, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

Work schedules for about 40,000 hourly employees had been reduced after the Sept. 11 attacks that devastated the tourism industry. About 1,000 salaried Disney World workers in California and Orlando were laid off before Sept. 11.

The offer of voluntary reductions was made only to Orlando-area workers, not to those in California. sOrlando's theme park has been hit harder by the drop in tourism because it relies more on visitors who traveled on airplanes.

*AP*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| DES-3225G | Excellent rating of 7.95 out of 10 from Network World (February 2001) |
| DES-1008D | Hardware Masters Editor's Pick Award (2000) |
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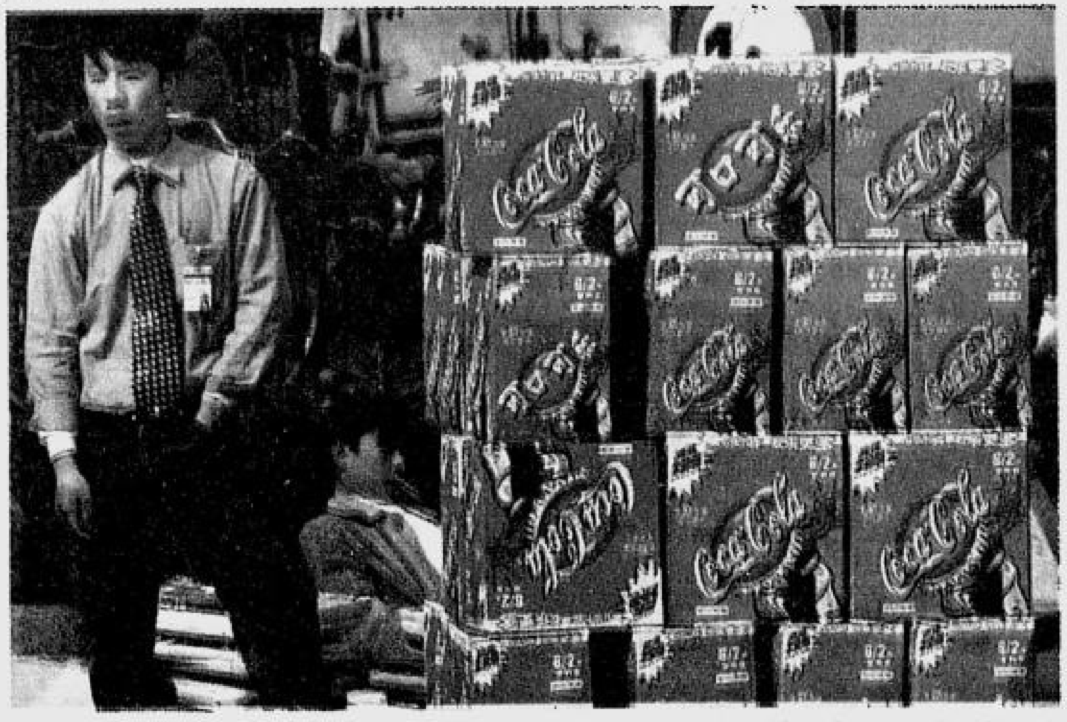

**A SUPERMARKET** supervisor waits beside cartons of Coca Cola in Beijing, Cot. 22. The US and China recently unveiled a plan to help their small and medium-sized businesses take advantage of the opportunities created by China's World Trade Organization membership. AFP

# Taiwan jobless rate hits record high of 5.26%

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan's jobless rate hit a record high of 5.26 percent last month as factories closed and companies downsized amid a global slowdown, the government said Tuesday.

The unemployment figure was the 12th straight monthly rise, and it topped the August rate of 5.17 percent, the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics said.

Traditionally, the jobless rate is lower in September than in August because students go back to school and create job openings. But workers displaced by plant closures and corporate downsizing have kept the jobless ranks full, said Chen Jin-cherng, a deputy director at the statistics agency.

For the full year 2001, Taiwan's jobless rate is expected to hit 4.5 percent, an annual record high, Chen said. Last year's jobless rate of 2.99 percent is the current record.

Chen said that the jobless rate will likely average 5 percent in the fourth quarter and likely won't return to below 3 percent, especially as Taiwan enters the World Trade Organization early next year.

For the first nine months of the year, Taiwan's jobless rate was 4.34 percent.

In September, the ranks of the unemployed rose to 519,000 from 304,000 in the same month last year. Chen said the jobless situation has spread to the high technology and service sectors as well, unlike last year when joblessness affected just the traditional manufacturing sectors.

In the northern city of Hsinchu—home to several big technology companies—September's jobless rate was 5.69 percent, higher than the islandwide rate, Chen said.

Chen said the effect of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States remains unclear, but the economic recovery will be delayed. He said the jobless rate is a lagging indicator.

The government has forecast economic growth this year will contract 0.37 percent, but it is widely expected to cut that forecast when it meets for its quarterly economic review next month. *AP*

# Tokyo auto show highlights hot competition in small car segment

TOKYO—At the Tokyo Motor Show opening this weekend, Japan's automakers will be showing their latest contenders in one of the most competitive sectors in the global market—small cars that are efficient, stylish and roomy.

While many of these subcompacts won't be sold in the United States, where bigger cars dominate, they hold the secret to why Japanese carmakers repeatedly beat American rivals in turning out fine-tuned, best-selling cars such as the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord.

Winning the small car battle at home is critical for Japanese automakers, who are concerned about sales in the United States after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Japan is in the middle of a deep economic slowdown of its own. And that, too, is expected to force more Japanese to turn to cheaper, small cars, which start at about 1 million yen ($8,300). The small cars also stand a good chance in the European market, where the Japanese are still fledgling players but hoping to do better.

Alongside a futuristic car that links to the Internet from Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co.'s just-for-fun experimental vehicle whose seats are collapsible motorcycles, the small cars are the big stars of the Tokyo Motor Show.

The Japanese say the finesse of packaging sophisticated engineering and safety features in a tiny car gives them a definitive edge in designing the larger small cars targeting overseas markets.

"If you can do the job with a small car, it's far easier to do it with a bigger car," said Satoru Tai, product chief designer of Tokyo-based Nissan Motor Co. "The skills are useful in competing in other markets."

The "mm" from Nissan, a concept model, or an idea in the works, for the March small car slated for sale in February, will be among the cars displayed at the Nissan booth at the auto show.

The March is the first car totally produced under Nissan's alliance with French automaker Renault SA. Since taking a 36.8-percent stake in 1999, Renault has helped return a money-losing Nissan to profitability.

The March—undergoing the first remodeling in a decade—underlines Nissan's attempt to challenge the domination of Toyota and Honda in the Japanese small-car market. The March, sold as the Micra in Europe, shares the same platform and other auto parts with the Renault Clio—a common way carmakers forming alliances are cutting costs.

In wooing drivers, Nissan is pushing a his-and-hers version of the small car.

March targets young women with its gentler, rounder look and roomy glove compartments. The more angular, sportier-looking Cube is the counterpart that targets young men. *AP*

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# Korea urges campaign against US steel ruling

SEOUL—South Korea on Tuesday called for a joint campaign with Japan and the European Union against US trade panel rulings that foreign imports were hurting the American steel industry.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy warned the US International Trade Commission's (ITC) rulings would seriously affect South Korean steel exports.

"Our steel exports to the United States are expected to be seriously affected by the ITC's rulings," it said in a statement.

The ministry called for joint efforts with Japan and the EU to discuss counter-measures.

"Aside from bilateral negotiations with the US government, we will strengthen cooperation with major steelmakers such as the EU and Japan."

The ITC ruled that some foreign steel products harmed US industry after an investigation ordered by President George W. Bush.

The commission said a total of 12 steel products such as hot-rolled, cold-rolled and slab steel had hurt US industry, raising the prospect of hotly-disputed anti-dumping curbs.

US trade data showed the biggest exporters of steel to the United States are Canada, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Japan, Germany and China.

But South Korea said its steel exports to the United States slid from 2.57 million tons in 1999 to 2.35 million tons last year.

The ministry said the US rulings may affect 60 percent of South Korean steel exports, which have been led by Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco), the world's largest steel company.

Posco has enjoyed record revenues in the past three years. But sales fell this year due to competition, dwindling demand and accusations that its low prices were helped by government subsidies. *AFP*

# Japan metal refiners eye new technology to survive

TOKYO—Japan's big metal refiners, eager to protect their long-standing place in the global market amid threats from new technologies, have begun staking out a prominent role developing new ways to coax metal from ore.

For decades, Japan's copper refiners have enjoyed comfortable arrangements with miners, importing semi-processed ore known as concentrates and smelting it into streams of high-purity molten metal for use by Japan's voracious manufacturing industries.

But Japan's biggest copper smelter, Nippon Mining & Metals Co. Ltd., is breaking with tradition to promote a hydrometallurgical process, which unlike its pyrometallurgical counterparts uses acid or other liquid solutions instead of heat to extract metal.

"We got involved with this technology so we could use it to invest in and develop new mines overseas," said Takashi Sakamoto, Nippon Mining's chairman.

Japan's biggest nickel producer, Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. has also jumped in the hydrometallurgical pool with a plan to spend $150 million on a laterite nickel project in the Philippines using high-pressure acid-leaching technology.

Driving the move into new technologies are fundamental changes in the structure of the global mining industry, especially in the massive copper sector where cheaper, cleaner refining methods using leaching solutions have steadily moved toward the mainstream.

Particularly in Chile, the world's largest copper ore producer, mines dug over the past decade have increasingly built adjacent solvent extraction electrowinning (SX/EW) facilities, which use a hydrometallurgical process to dissolve and remove copper from oxide ores.

But as the miners dig deeper, the oxide ore is giving way to a more stubborn sulphide zone that requires the development of new processes.

Most Japanese smelters have avoided any involvement with SX/EW projects, which they feared would divert ore from their own pyrometallurgical processes.

But Nippon Mining hopes that getting a foot in the door in developing hydrometallurgical technology for primary sulphide ores will keep it in the global copper refining game even if pyrometallurgical processes go the way of the dinosaur.

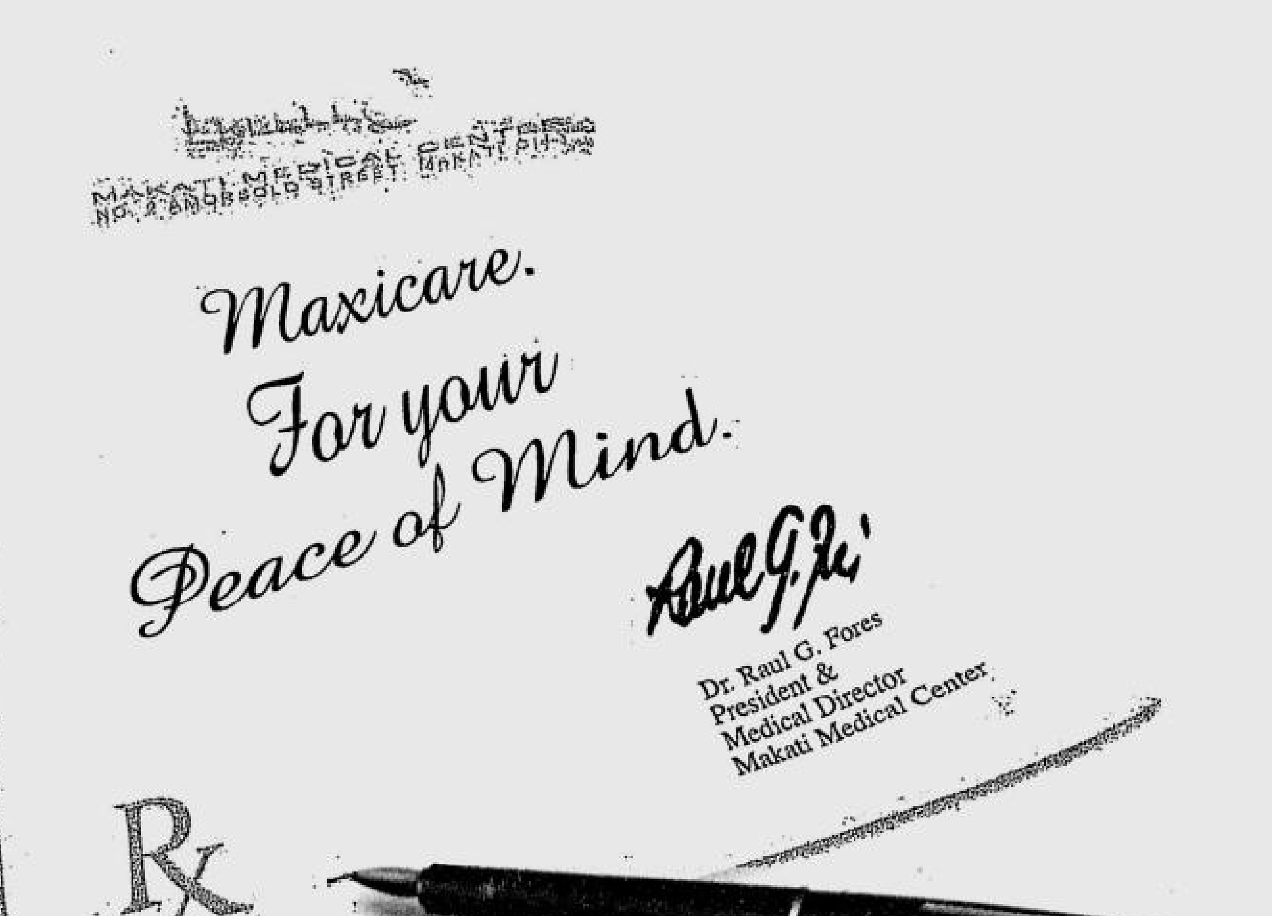
"Looking 20 to 30 years ahead, there are limits to how much concentrate will be available for importers like us for pyrometallurgical production," Sakamoto said.

"If new hydrometallurgical processes to make copper from primary sulphide ore are successful, most of Japan's existing custom smelters, which rely on treatment and refining charges from miners for processing metal, may find it hard to survive," he said.

Nippon Mining joined a research project led by the Australian research institute Intec Copper Plc to develop a process that grinds primary sulphide ore into superfine particles and puts it through a leaching process which, unlike SX/EW, also extracts traces of silver and gold, while toxic substances such as arsenic are neutralized in compounds with other elements such as iron.

Global metal giants are believed to have been interested in Intec's process, but no details have been available about their involvement.

Sakamoto said a Nippon Mining research center north of Tokyo has been working since last October to confirm the validity of Intec's technology and whether the process is commercially viable. *Reuters*



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# *Singapore relieved WTO meeting to be held in Doha*

SINGAPORE—Singapore is "relieved and pleased" that the next meeting of the World Trade Organization will go ahead in the Gulf state of Qatar next month, the trade ministry said Tuesday.

The Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry said Tuesday that the Director General of the WTO, Mike Moore, "has confirmed that Singapore is no longer needed as a fallback."

The WTO in Geneva announced Monday that the meeting would go ahead as planned.

Singapore—a wealthy Southeast Asian nation—had been sounded out as a possible alternative to the Qatar capital, Doha, amid security concerns over holding a WTO meeting in the Middle East while US-led forces are launching strikes in Afghanistan.

The United States has accused Afghanistan of harboring Osama bin Laden, who Washington says is the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"Singapore is relieved and pleased that the WTO has reaffirmed its determination to hold the fourth ministerial meeting in Doha on Nov. 9 to 13," the ministry said in a statement.

Singapore hosted an informal meeting earlier this month of trade officials from 21 member nations of the WTO.

During that gathering, Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo said the city state had "done some preliminary checks," but was not enthusiastic about hosting a full meeting of delegations of the 142 WTO members.

"We could probably do something on a much scaled-down basis," Yeo said during the Singapore meeting.

Officials from a number of countries at the Singapore meeting said they were worried about the security situation in the Middle East.

"It's no secret that Doha is located in the vicinity of what is today considered a war zone," said Pascal Lamy, commissioner for trade for the European Commission, said at the meeting. *AFP*

## ENTREPRENEURS EYED

# China offers $9B in deals to HK

HONG KONG—Beijing is inviting Hong Kong businesses to bid for projects worth some $9 billion, Wen Wei Po reported Tuesday.

The offers will be extended to some 300 entrepreneurs from the territory at a two-day meeting on economic cooperation between China and Hong Kong in Beijing on Tuesday, the Chinese-language daily Wen Wei Po said.

The contracts involve services, logistics, conventions, exhibitions and infrastructure in Beijing, the newspaper reported.

It also said more business opportunities would be available as Beijing gears up for the 2007 Olympics Games.

Several Hong Kong tycoons including Victor Li, son of Li Ka-shing, were reported to be heading for Beijing for the two-day meeting which will also explore business opportunities arising from Beijing's successful Olympics bid.

The Beijing contracts offer fresh hope to businesses from Hong Kong, where the economy is slowing. The government recently slashed its economic growth forecast for this year to one percent.

Five leading business associations in Hong Kong were also reported on Tuesday as planning to send a joint letter to Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa on ways to improve Hong Kong's economic development.

The recommendations include introducing 24-hour boundary crossing, speeding up discussions with the central government in Beijing on investment immigration for mainlanders, creating special visa allowances for more mainland professionals and removing customs barriers for goods, Sing Tao daily said.

Meanwhile, a survey conducted by the Hong Kong People Management Association and the Baptist University showed 17 out of 40 companies polled planned to freeze salaries in the coming year. In a follow-up survey carried out after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the number of companies deciding to freeze pay had risen to 23.

Tung also in his policy address on Oct. 10 said that the future development of Hong Kong relied on economic growth on the mainland.

"Although the global economy is generally slowing, China distinguishes itself with continuous economic growth. This creates new business opportunities for us and provides the impetus for Hong Kong's continued development," said Tung. *AFP*

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# Windows XP seen as savior for ailing computer industry

SAN FRANCISCO—Microsoft's Windows XP debut this Thursday is being seen as a savior for world's ailing computer industry, although observers are skeptical of its miracle working powers.

The PC industry is facing its deepest slump ever, and Windows XP is seen as the hoped for spark to turn things around.

"We're hoping it will give a shot in the arm to the computer industry," said Amy Hamilton, a spokesperson for Intel, the world's leading computer chip maker.

Intel has joined with Microsoft in a $1-billion promotion effort aimed at convincing consumers and corporations to buy XP and the faster computers necessary to take advantage of the software's new features.

But industry watchers say despite the hype for the new operating system, it remains to be seen whether Windows XP will lead to a rush to buy or replace existing PCs.

"It does not follow that (consumers and companies) should blindly follow Microsoft's attempts to lead the market with a never-ending parade of upgrades," technology consultancy Gartner Dataquest wrote to its clients earlier this month.

Making its official debut Thursday, the XP operating system (XP is short for "eXPerience") is a complete rewrite of the its Windows software that now powers more than 90 percent of the world's desktop machines. An operating system is the basic software that lets a computer run other programs, such as word processors or Web browsers.

Already launched is Office XP, the companion package of software which includes a word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation software that comes with the Microsoft e-mail program and the Explorer Web browser.

Computer makers are keeping their fingers crossed that the new software will prompt businesses and consumers to buy new computers. Windows XP comes with a host of new abilities which requires more muscular machines. The software, for example, can handle multiple intense computing tasks with a faster processor. This lets a user, say, copy of a music CD while simultaneously browsing the Web and downloading more files.

According to the computer market research firm Gartner Dataquest, computer sales have been declining at a rate of almost 2 percent per quarter during 2001. It's the first time the sector has seen a downturn since 1986.

That decline in new computer interest, coupled with a general slump in economic conditions worldwide, have put many computer makers on the ropes.

In the latest example, Gateway reported last Thursday a third quarter net loss of $520 million, a stark contrast with the same quarter a year ago, when the company reported a $131.8-million profit.

Last month, Gateway announced it was shutting down operations in Britain and Ireland, a month after it announced closings throughout Asia. Company officials say they're mulling closures or cutbacks in France and other countries.

Earlier this year, venerable companies like Hewlett-Packard and Compaq have been forced into an uneasy merger due to market conditions, after laying off thousands.

Analysts believe this decline in new computer sales represents a "saturation" of the marketplace. Despite dramatic speed increases, the market has turned away from new computers, using their present machines for the usual computing tasks: e-mail, Web browsing, word processing and spreadsheet manipulation. *AFP*

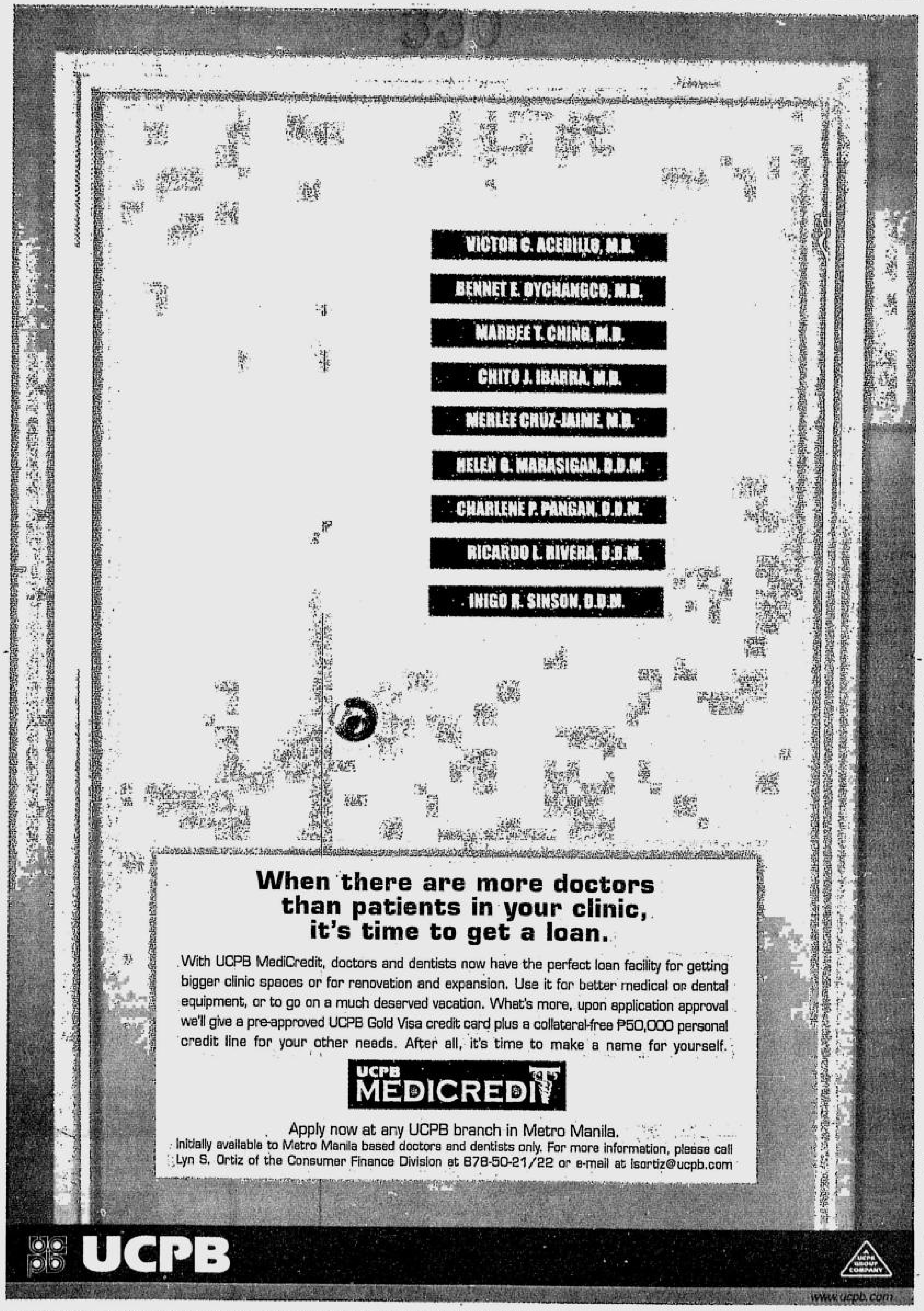
# NEC plans day's closure of semiconductor plants

TOKYO—Japan's hi-tech firm, NEC Corp., said Tuesday it will stand down all 9,000 staff at its semiconductor division on 80-percent pay for one day Wednesday.

The firm also plans similar one-day stand downs in November and December to raise awareness among its employees about the severity of the deterioration in global demand for semiconductor products, an NEC spokesperson said.

"We have had short-term, temporary closures of factories in the past. But we will have this division-wide stand down to have all of our employees (in the division) share the sense of crisis," he said.

In addition, the firm will lower the application age for its early retirement scheme to 45 years from 50 at present, and increase extra severance pay to 34 months of monthly salary from 24 months at present, he said. *AFP*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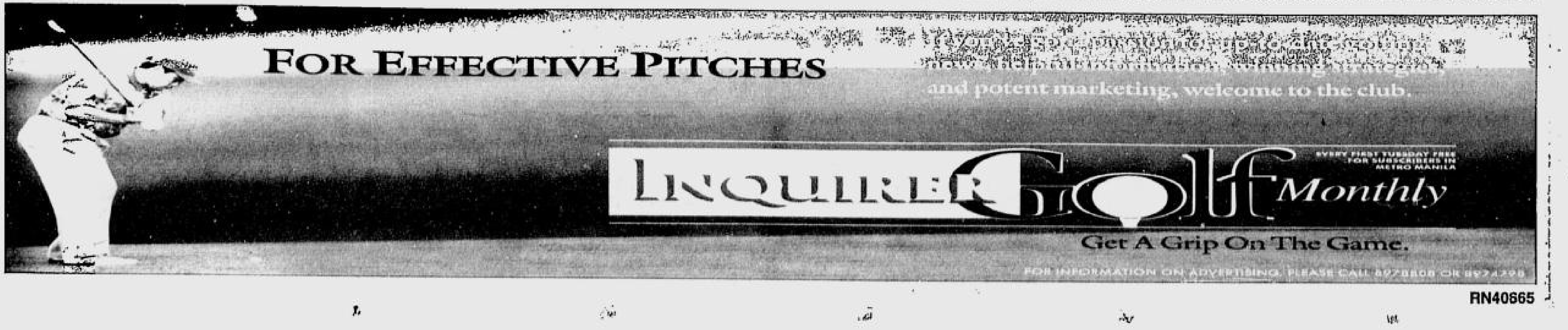
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★Bo. Capitolyo P6.5M★ Bungalow 3BRs • 671-4421

Valle Verde6 910m² 6BR w/ pool P32M 633-7601 to 03

#### QUEZON CITY

B-New Katipunan Ext. 0919-8707359 • (047) 237-1459

KAMUNING NEW 4BR 3T/B 180m² P6.5M #141 K-2nd St. Tel. 724-2629 • 410-7619

Loyola Grand Villas LA600 FA462 4BR 6812467

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS 2sty 5rms 6TB 650m²LA Vacant lot w/ view avble 929-1832 • 426-5660

Mayon Hse &Lot SMH te 900m² • 534-6610 Jojo

Nr SM North P1.8M up Call 4177881;9845453;4528678

PROJ. 2 B'New B'FUL 3Sty 3B/R 4T/B P4M #19 Kubili St. Tel. 434-8166 • 724-2629

PROJ.8 NR VISAYAS AVE. 270sqm LOT w/ 2 sty.old hse 929-1832 / 426-5650 P4.9M

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

#### QUEZON CITY

Proj8 nice2sty5.9M 9202001

SIKATUNA VILL.B'NEW BIG B'FUL 5B/R 7T/B W/Family Rm. P12M #13 MAPAGKUMBABA ST.Tel. 434-8054 • 724-2629

#### RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Nr Antipolo Church P1.8 LA-346 FA-150 634-1212

Safe of Flood and Faultline Ridgmont Executive Vill

**NR ORTIGAS EXT**
CAINTA New very strong FRENCH Bungalow 3BR 2car port nr entrance/guard P2.2M
Lot: 172m² Call 948-8240

#### PROVINCIAL

San Jose Vill Sta Rosa Laguna L-151 or 174 Call 928-1469

#### OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0919-2045695

### LOT

#### MAKATI

Fort Bonifacio 450sqm Call 9206694/9251348

#### MANDALUYONG

Nr Boni 12T/m² 6453731

Various Mandaluyong Lots 534-6610 • Jojo

#### MARIKINA

PROVIDENT VILL Marikina nr Ateneo/UP 350m² nr Sec Guard/Gate P5T/m² 9488240

#### PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869m² Call 634-1212

#### QUEZON CITY

BATASAN, nr. Filinv 2, P3,600/SQ 300 SQ, 5yrs-pay, 242-1521

Marcos Hiway Comm'l LOT L-317 V-LOT 928-1469

Rollin Hills V-Lot L-725 Corner Lot Call 928-1469

#### RIZAL

FOREST HILLS 446m² 4121825•09177914366

#### PROVINCIAL

Cor. Lot LA-216m² FA-200m² 2Stry 4BR 3CR Grge/Terrace 573-2804 • Call or Text 0919-6293623

### CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

#### ALABANG

Aspen Tower Alabang 1BR Sale/Rent • 915-5177

#### MAKATI

**10T/MO 2 OWN**
2Bedrm Ready 4 Move-in Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libis Ortigas Call 09193411422

Prince Plaza 2, Penthouse 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738

#### MANILA

3BR 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

Antel Seaview 2M 9202001

#### MANDALUYONG

Renaissance 3000 3BR rdy 4 occ 9206694/9251348

Varoius Mandaluyong Townhses • 534-6610 Jojo

Varoius Wack-Wack Condo 534-6610 • Jojo

Wack' Royal Studio, Furn w/Pkg P1.6M 6337601-03

#### PASIG

235 FA Rennaissance 3000 3BR 3TB 2 Prkng 634-1212

3BR •Emerald Mansion• 5.5M 641-1092, 0919-4032997

•Alexandra Units•
3BR F&FF 2Grg 216-250m² 641-1092 • 0919-4032997

DJT Pasig 3BR 915-5177

Off. Condo Prestige Tower 4M 641-1092 0919-4032997

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

#### QUEZON CITY

Ayala Montgomery 6M Up Near St. Lukes • 915-5177

B-new Town-Hse Nr Grd Hse Goodwill Homes 1 Subd Katipunan Ave Ext Nr SM City 4Units 3BR w/Attic 0917-8349006 • 0919-8707359 • (047) 237-1459

Burgundy Loyola Heights 2BR 5312021 0917-3955738

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P 9120647 9132224 4381161

Prince David Loyola 1BR P2.5M • 915-5177

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

Woodside NMla • 915-5177

99% COMPLETE
BUT NOT BARE FINISHED

Why buy if not ready to use? Invest/Visit us for flexible term: 0% ready to move in! Near Ateneo, St. Luke's c/resd/ofc, spool, garden view deck, jacuzzi, sauna.
MOVERS DEVT. MKTG.
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Text (0919) 407-6857

#### RIZAL

1Ride frm Cubao P360T 4177881;9845453;4528678

Cainta T-Hse P1.85 30Days Payment 30% DP 656-6491

#### SAN JUAN

Classica 77m² P3.5M; Garden Island 77m² P4M • 671-4421

G'hills LPL 1BR FF P20T 1Beverly 3BR P25T 723-2391

Mellowville 230m² P4.5M 671-4421 • 0917-5279121

Platinum 1 Annapolis 176 FA 17th Flr. 634-1212

Sn Juan 7DR apt w/income 9206694/9251348/9511349

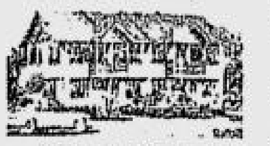
#### OTHER AREAS

Alexandra Condo 3BR Unit Lease/Sale • 0919-4032997

Horseshoe 3BR • 915-5177

Narra Hts. Mariposa Nice 3BR 5.2M • 915-5177

**VILLA FELIZA HOMES**
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



**COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE**
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

**CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES**
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

**WESTVILLE HOMES**
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

**FORTE REALTY**
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City
810-7297 776-4604
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872-7603 810-7183
829-5081 810-8019
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to
forterealty@skyinet.net

### FACTORY/WHSE

4000M Beside SM City Alng Edsa Call 928-1469

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

#### KALOOCAN

2BR U/D P4T Cmpd.4Ave.2851167

#### MAKATI

2BR3BR 3STY 3CR 8992148

3961 Yague St. Mktl. City Tel. 524-9339*400-8656

#### MANDALUYONG

2BR 10T 1BR 8T Studio 6.5T Boni Shaw no car 3730587

### HOUSE

#### SAN JUAN

Ghils 3BR P60T • 723-2391

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### ALABANG

3brtb/mds rm f'furn P100T/ mo 2Tel Lag' Bay View Aspen Filinvest 8072573/8072676

**4 RENT: CONDO**
Aspen Tower Alabang F/F P45,000.00 •TEL.8071245•

#### MAKATI

CITYLAND P. Tamo Twr New Bldg. Std 8500/1BR w/SF 11T 757-9113/ 0917-8334475

KWOOD Mktl 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

**STUDIO FF Makati 17K**
•759-4091•752-2580•
•848-7388•0917-8381928•

#### MANILA

Sta Ana Condo 4 Rent Nr Mktl, La Salle 2BR-11T 1BR-8T 563-7395 • 562-7854 Mariless

#### MANDALUYONG

7,000T 2BR 1TB Guevent 2 Libertad St., Mandaluyong Look 4 Annie 0919-3902606

Resd'l/Off 48m² Up P14Th Up Rnt/Own 5314971 / 7246133

#### PARANAQUE

BNEW 1-3BR HI-FLR P12T-25T
•825-7515•825-9609•

#### PASIG

Horizon 3BR Unfurn P30T 4121825 ; 09177914366

Parc Royale 16T 9202001

VVerde 3BR P35T 723-2391

#### QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Loyola Katip. Pkng 2BR 25T • 915-5177

Scout 4BR3flr 18T 9512413

**TOWNHOUSE**
3BR, 2TB, Rd2o Proj. 8 Q.C.
Call 0917-2505008

#### SAN JUAN

Ghils 1BR P16-20T; 3BR P25-35T SEV • 723-2391

LPL Greenhills 1BR Semi Furn 16T • 915-5177

Tnhse 3BR P30-40T 723-2391

#### OTHER AREAS

PACIFIC PLAZA FORT CALL TEL. 915-5177

Paragon Plaza EDSA 2BR P33T FF • 915-5177

#### VARIOUS AREAS

BRENTVILLE MAMPLASAN 15 MINS FR ALABANG QUIET SAFE 2BR 2 1/2 TB MDSRM & TB AC F/S-FURN FREE USE OF BRENT FACILITIES CALL OFF HRS. 526-4478

### FOR LEASE

Cmml Lot N. Domingo SJ w/WHse LA1600 915-5177

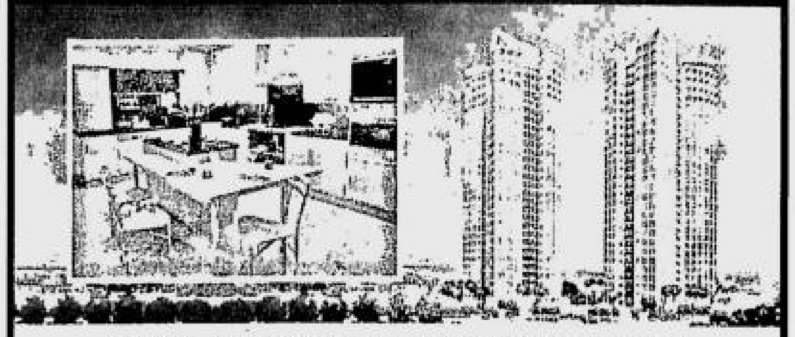
**NEW COML. BLDG. W/ELEV. 4 Lease**
4th,5th,6th floor
Frontage-36.5m x 18m
J.P. Rizal St. near Pasong Tamo Mktl. Infront of McDonalds PRC Tel.#8906435 •8903736 Look for Vicky / Beng

Visayas Ave. 0917-3955738

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### FOR LEASE

**Luxurious Three Bedroom Residences For Rent at Fort Bonifacio.**



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*290 sq.m. 3BR unit w/ Maid's Room*
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*Housekeeping Services*
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As tenants, you automatically become members of Club Essensa and get to enjoy the extensive array of superior features and amenities such as the gym, spa and personal care facilities not found anywhere else.

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Exclusive Sales and Marketing Manager:
CENTURY PROPERTIES, INC.
REAL ESTATE MARKETING, MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

☎ 840-4483 to 85 • 815-1231

### FOR LEASE

VL EDSA Manda LA2450m² 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

### ROOM & BOARD

Big room@Olympia Makati 4.5T 09172580949/8708042

Cainta Grnpark Room Near Sta Lucia Mall 656-6491

Cubao Ladies Strong H2O 9124106

Studio Semi/Fully Furn. Malate Near DLSU 523-5465

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

### BUSINESS RENTAL

For Rent 2 Room Office P8500 T-9219405;4260930

★Jollibee Plaza 88m²★ Prestige 64m² • 671-4421

MAKATI Nr BUENDIA Ptamo 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

**MALATE 3000m²**
COMM'L 4125192 9241402

**MALATE TIANGGE**
P2800/mo T4125192/9241402

Medical Plz 40 75sqm Jollibee 80sqm 412-1825 Centrpt Ofc 140m²@200/m²

STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610652

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#### HONDA

Accord EXI'97 A/T 430T 09173876810

#### MITSUBISHI

98's GLT VR6 AT Lthr 8078954

#### SPECIAL CARS

1967 Camaro 09177619178

### HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Before grand vactn sale Genset & Tractors 3610215

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For your car needs... tires, battery, accessories & services.
RUBBERVOLT QC
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CREDIT CARDS HONORED

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4536295

BNEW PREGIO L3 8254058

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HIAce9483535

MB HIAce Urvan 825-7135

MB100 Call 643-7397

Revo 1000/8hrs 4554873

**SELF-DRIVE**
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

Toyco CarVanRental 8006595

### WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

**We Buy Cars** 0915-7010510

### CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

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Lowest % 740-5692 • 740-6192

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BAKERY EQUIPMENT

★Serviceable CANTEEN EQUIPMENTS 4554714

### HOME APPLIANCE

Just call we deliver 2HP Carrier suing model P9T 1.5HP P8T 1HP P6T 3ton packg type Koppel Carrier Alenaire good as bnew P30T 5-7.5ton P55T 9219465 4260930 4554061

### PETS

DALMATIAN PUPPIES 4Sale w/PCCI Call 0917-5395146

Dog Trainer 09192050952

TRAINER 4528691/0919-97219020

### SPORTING GOODS

• Billiards Sales/Service •
Complete Acc's 8014494/8020566

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

### WANTED TO BUY

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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**BUYING ROLEX**
others, High Price CASH
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from China & Italy!
50-60% DISCOUNT!
CLOSE OUT SALE!
homogenous tiles, natural granite stone Call 4575463 0917-2544429 Isabel Co

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503

### FEMALE

Good Cook; Hsemaid, 4 Persons, SS P7-8T, Ph-4, Horizon Condo, Meralco Ave. cor. Onyx, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

### MALE/FEMALE

•10 URGENT NEEDED OFC• PERSONNEL 9134470 Helen

CARE GIVER T5280722

Ofc Staff 7136116 Rocky

•OFFICE STAFF 9134470 Carl

•Office staff/sec/sup. asap Direct 9134470 Ms. Angel

WASHER & PLANTSADORA 4363434/9328970 Dyna;My

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Join DATING GAME! Call pager 141913099

SEEK FOR THE TRUTH
www.innerquest.org.ph

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
•November 5, 2001•
All unredeemed articles up to June 1-30, 2001
in the following branches:
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Pinatubo St. Mand 10AM
Producers Mkt Mand 11AM
109 Dela Rosa St Mkt 1PM
108 Legaspi St Mktl 2PM
*V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer*

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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B/Sell Educ'l 8061574

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Computer Whole Saler
T:8202777 C:0919-8669171

Work From Home 8937903

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of the late LUIS M. BAJA was extrajudicially settelled among his heirs as per Doc 326 Page 67 Book VIII Series 2001 of Notary Public Atty. Jose Ronald V. Valles of Pasig City
(PDI-10/ 24,31,11/ 7, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Pepito F. Abrajano was extrajudicially settled by the heirs per Doc. # 311, Page # 64, Book #V, Series of 2001 of Notary Public for Pasig City, Freddie M. Nojara. *(PDI - Oct. 10, 17 & 24, 2001)*

### PERSONAL

#### NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

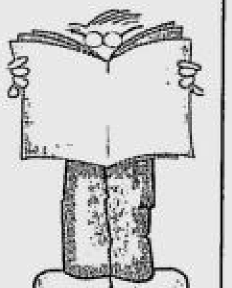
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days Without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted.
LDJ

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

*This is to inform the public that* **MS. CHRISTINE INOCANDO UY** *of #11 New Era St., Mabolo, Cebu City whose picture appears hereon is no longer connected with* **ATT Aqua Treatment Technology Incorporated** *or any of its branches or affiliates effective August 25, 2001. Any transaction made by such person on or after said date will not, in any manner, be honored by the aforesaid company.*

**Where you find the best.**



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# SYKES℠

*Real People. Real Solutions.*

*Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.*

*From its Manila Call-Center, Sykes currently supports 15 clients in 6 languages, handling the transactions throughout Asia, Europe and the USA.*

## Quality Assurance Assistant Manager (QA AM)

☑ BS Industrial Engineering graduate with at least 3 years supervisory experience
☑ At least 3 years experience in implementing quality standards, a must
☑ Quality assurance experience in a call center, preferred
☑ Excellent English communication skills, including phone handling skills
☑ Proven excellence in business writing and negotiation skills
☑ Adept in Microsoft Office, MS Outlook and the Internet

## Customer Service Representatives (EURO CSR)

☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
☑ Excellent typing skills; working knowledge on different computer applications and the Internet
☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
☑ Fluent in any European language (Spanish, French, German, Italian)

## Technical Support Engineers – Asian Languages (TSE – Asian Lang)

☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
☑ Has working knowledge on the Internet and other computer applications
☑ Fluent in any of the following language:
  ✓ Mandarin
  ✓ Korean
  ✓ Japanese

## Technical Support Engineers (English TSE)

☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
☑ Basic understanding of computer architecture and dial-up connections
☑ Working knowledge on Windows platform, Microsoft applications and the Internet
☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
☑ Excellent verbal and written English communication skills

## JRun Technical Support Engineers (JR TSE)

☑ Adept in JAVA Programming and is capable of providing general JRun installation and configuration assistance and must have a familiarity with HTTP specifications
☑ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience in products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
☑ Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, JSP,Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
☑ Extensive experience in HTML, Servlet programming, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

## ColdFusion Technical Support Engineers (CF TSE)

☑ Experience with ColdFusion or ColdFusion Studio
☑ Technical knowledge in any Macromedia product or previous experience in products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
☑ Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
☑ Basic knowledge of RDBMS and JavaScript

## Macromedia Technical Support Engineers (MTSE)

☑ Technical knowledge in any Macromedia product (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Authorware, Director, Freehand, UltraDev)
☑ Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, Javascript, JSP. Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
☑ Hands-on experience in any or all of the following platforms: Windows, Macintosh or Unix
☑ Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

*Qualified applicants are requested to submit an updated copy of their resumé with their transcript of records and 2x2 photo to:*

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**
4/F San Miguel Properties Center
St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center
Mandaluyong City
Fax: + 632 - 910 - 1559
Email: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
http://www.sykes.com

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*Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
Maynila, Pilipinas

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective contractors for the fabrication of built-in cabinets, laminated computer tables, open-shelves, receiving counters and low partitions for the Treasury, Backroom, 3/F, 5-Storey Building per BSP scope of work, specifications, plan and detailed drawings.

Details may be obtained from the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. No. 525-2493 and 525-0048.

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders/contractors must submit poofs showing that they comply with the following requirements:

1. Contractor should be a general contractor with PCAB accreditation at least category A level.
2. Contractor should have at least five (5) years experience as finishing contractor and a track record on interior construction of commercial/institutional projects requiring high-end finishes and excellent workmanship such as first class hotels, banks, offices and financial institutions, restaurants, clubhouses, etc. The Bank reserves the right to verify, through inspection the completed projects.
3. Contractor should submit a list of completed projects indicating project cost and nature of work undertaken.
4. Contractor should have completed two (2) projects costing at least P1,000,000.00 of similar technology, complexity and magnitude as that of the project.
5. Contractor must issue a Guarantee Bond for a period of one (1) year after acceptance of work.

The above requirements, together with the photocopies of documents listed below (original of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes) shall be submitted to the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila not later than **November 9, 2001**.

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2. Y2000 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement);
3. Y2000 Income Tax Return; and
4. Company history/profile of the Bidder.

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalified bidders.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI – Oct. 24, 2001)

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Republika ng Pilipinas
**PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG**
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

OFFICE ADDRESS
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
E. DE LOS SANTOS AVENUE
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

TEL. NOS. 976-071 to 78
CABLE NIAPHIL
TELEX 42802 NIA PM

## INVITATION TO BID

### Bid No. TGISRP-0023-01

### Supply and Delivery of Various Industrial Engines

The Philippine Government has obtained a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the prosecution of the Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation System Project. Part of the Loan shall be used to procure eligible expenditures as follows:

| Qty | Unit | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Sets | Vertical Turbine Pump<br>2 Stage or multi-stages 250 MM<br>(10" dia.) Water Lubricated,<br>Diesel Engine Driven using<br>Right Angle Gear Drive |
| 9 | Sets | Industrial Diesel Engine |
| 9 | Sets | Right Angle Gear Drive (RAGD) |

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as the Implementing Agency of the Project, invites eligible bidders to participate in the tender. Interested bidders may obtain bid documents from **05 to 16 November 2001** at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 921-3906 and 922-4768 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **27 November 2001**, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Building, Quezon City.

Bids must be delivered and shall be publicly opened on **11 December 2001**, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ISIDRO R. DIGAL**
Chairman

(PDI -- Oct. 24 & 26, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Norte
Municipality of Marcos
**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR**
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

## INVITATION TO BID

October 24, 2001
World Bank/IBRD
Loan No. 4109 PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the **Contract No. RI SWIP 01 394 06 LYD IN** for the Construction of Calipayan Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP) located at Barangay Daquioag, Marcos, Ilocos Norte. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Marcos, Ilocos Norte and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

**Description of Project:** Construction of impounding dam, spillway, outlet and irrigation works.

| Item No. | Work Breakdown Structure | Quantity (% Project Cost) |
|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | Construction of field office/temporary facilities and movement of equipment | 2.54% |
| 2.0 | Clearing & Grubbing for Reservoir & Borrow Areas | 2.25% |
| 3.0 | Construction of Dam | 61.46% |
| 4.0 | Construction of Spillway | 12.19% |
| 5.0 | Construction of Diversion/Outlet Works | 8.84% |
| 6.0 | Irrigation/Canal Lining Works | 12.73% |

**Project Category** : Dam and Reservoir/Irrigation Works Medium "A" or higher.
**Bid Security** : P120,900.00 or 2.6% of the total bid price which ever is higher.
**Bid Closing Date** : November 27, 2001 / 2:00 PM at Municipal Mayor's Office

**Minimum Equipment Required**

Bulldozer-owned; Vibratory (15 ton min.) Road Roller-owned; Loader-owned/leased; 2 units-Back hoe-owned/leased; 2 units Dump Truck-owned; Survey Instrument-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by interested bidders at the above office starting **November 8, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos Only (P4,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **November 8, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Marcos, Ilocos Norte on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representative who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect of formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying.

(Sgd.) **HON. CLYDE J. GARCIA, M.D.**
*Mayor/Chairman PBAC-ARCDP*

(PDI - Oct. 24, 2001)

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**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY**
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0254 / 840-1440

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID (RE-BID)

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)** invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

| PROJECT | Pre-Qualification Deadline | Bid Deadline |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Comprehensive Maintenance of PABX System WO 01-041 | October 26, 2001 | November 6, 2001 (2:00 p.m.) |
| 2. Rental of Ornamental Plants WO 01-045 | October 26, 2001 | November 6, 2001 (2:00 p.m.) |
| 3. Shuttle Services (2 buses) WO 01-046 | October 26, 2001 | November 6, 2001 (2:00 p.m.) |

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
*Senior Vice President*
*Legal, Admin. and Estate Management Services*

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 25, 2001)

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
**BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 928-8505 loc. 253 & 252

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Bureau of Agricultural Research invites all interested Bidders to pre-qualify for the bidding of supply and installation of modular workstations with panels, lateral files, modular conference tables, steel storage lockers and steel manual type compactor/trail.

B. The following pre-qualification requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Procurement and Bidding Awards Committee of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR-PBAC) at 3rd Floor, ATI Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. Company Profile.
2. SEC Registration (Corporation); DTI Accreditation (Sole Proprietorship).
3. License to Operate (Mayor's Permit).
4. ITR for the last two years (stamped by BIR).
5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years.
6. VAT/E-VAT/NON-VAT Registration.
7. Number of Employees.
8. List of clients within the year with their respective telephone numbers and addresses.
9. The company must indicate in its application the category/classification/grouping they would like to participate in (Letter of Intent).
10. Certification that the company is not affiliated with other companies with similar nature of business.
11. Listing of product offered.
12. Certification of dealership from authorized distributor.

NOTE:

- ONLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
- ONLY AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS/RESELLERS/DEALERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING
- COST OF DOCUMENTS: P2,500.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)
- FUNDING SOURCE ALLOCATION: 7M

C. Deadline for submission: **November 5, 2001.**

D. Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

E. The Bureau of Agricultural Research reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the Bureau.

F. For further particulars, please inquire at Telephone Nos.: 928-8505, 928-8624 local 153 or 141 c/o Ms. Corazon L. Barretto or Arch. Edgardo Abesamis.

(Sgd.) **ELISEO R. PONCE**
Director

(PDI -- Oct. 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

# OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory*
*on the*
*TENTH (10th) DEATH ANNIVERSARY*
*of*

## LUZ P. VELEZ SOBREVIÑAS

of Dinalupihan, Bataan and Jolo, Sulu

(Beloved wife of **DOMINADOR**, who passed away on July 21, 2001)

*who died in the Grace of our Lord*
*on October 24, 1991.*

Holy Masses will be offered today, Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at the following:

**St. John the Baptist Church** ......... 6:00 AM
Dinalupihan, Bataan

**Chapel of the Camillian Sisters** ... 6:30 AM
**Formation House**
Marcos Highway, Antipolo

**Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice** ......... 6:00 PM
UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City

**Mt. Carmel Cathedral** ................. 6:00 AM
Jolo, Sulu

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In Loving Memory
on the
9th Death Anniversary
of

## Atty. Gregorio R. Castillo

of
Buhi, Camarines Sur

Founding Partner
CASTILLO LAMAN TAN PANTALEON
& SAN JOSE LAW OFFICES

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches on *October 24, 2001*:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Parish of St. James The Great**<br>*Ayala Alabang* | 6:30 PM |
| **St. Jerome Amiliani**<br>*Alabang* | 6:00 PM |
| **Santuario de San Antonio Parish**<br>*Forbes Park, Makati* | 6:10 PM |
| **St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish**<br>*Kalayaan, Makati* | 6:30 PM |
| **St. John Bosco Parish**<br>*Pasay Road, Makati* | 6:00 PM |
| **St. Vincent de Paul Parish**<br>*San Marcelino, Manila* | 5:00 PM |
| **Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish**<br>*Merville, Parañaque* | 6:00 AM |
| **Saint Peter's Parish**<br>*Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City* | 12:00 NN |
| **Parish Church of the Resurrection**<br>*BF, Parañaque* | 6:30 PM |
| **Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish**<br>*BF, Parañaque* | 7:00 AM |

The Family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

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**"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."** Matthew 10:39

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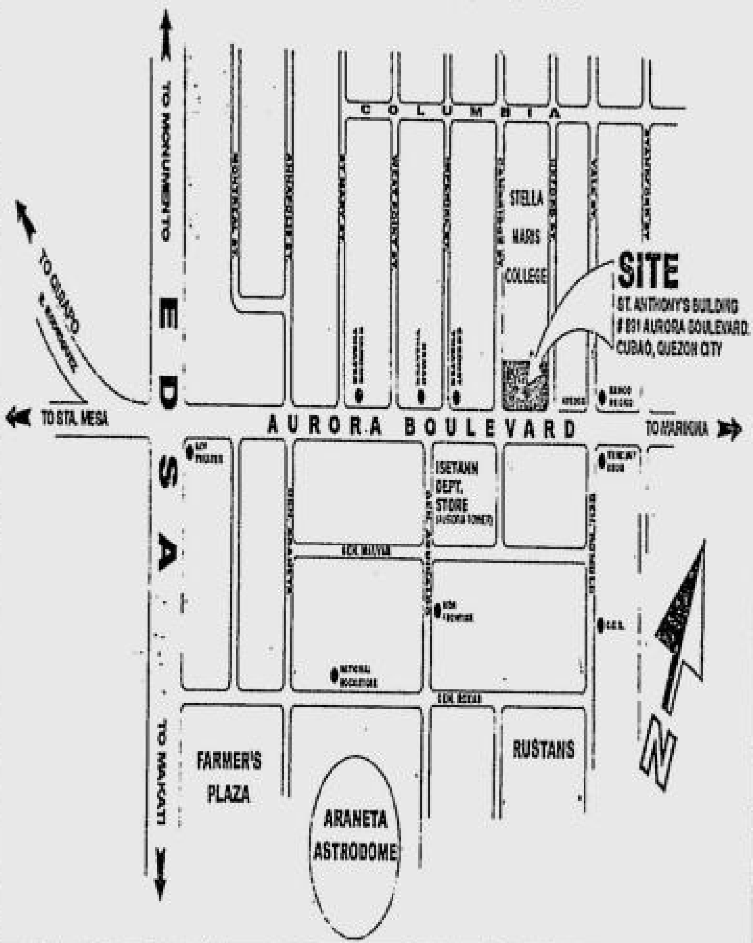

# CLASSIFIEDS

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public and other industry stakeholders that **MS. WINONA SION**, whose picture appears above, has ceased to be employed by the **Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines or CFIP** effective **17 September 2001.**

Any transaction entered into by her on behalf of the Chamber effective **17 September 2001** shall not be honored by CFIP.

(PDI - Oct. 24, 2001)

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INQUIRER
## TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

### United Nations

The United Nations -- most of whose 189 members are Third World countries -- meets on a site donated by one of the world's richest men. The gift came from the billionaire philanthropist and industrialist John D. Rockefeller, Jr., son of the founder of the giant American oil company, Standard Oil. Rockefeller bought the 7-hectare tract of land beside New York's East River for $8.5 million in 1946. He then gave it to the newly organized United Nations as a site for its headquarters building (exact location: between First Ave. and Roosevelt Drive and E. 42nd St. and E. 48th St.), which was opened in 1952. The land is now officially international territory, and a team of guides takes about a million visitors around the headquarters each year.

**For the Record.** All UN proceedings are recorded in the organization's six official languages: English, French, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic. In all, the UN employs over 1,000 translators and interpreters to keep pace with its output of words.

***What's the Difference?*** **State/Nation/Country/Republic.** A state is a group of people occupying a defined area of land, speaking the same language, and ruled by a government that was formed because of common economic, religious, or military needs. A nation is often an outgrowth of a state or states, in which historically unified people in the state and surrounding territories form a larger political entity -- the union usually produces a depth of culture not commonly found in states. A country is a nation defined geographically by its borders and physical attributes. A republic is a state or nation in which the supreme power rests with its citizens, who are entitled to vote for representatives to carry out their will.

**WORD WATCH**

**Bansa** : from the Malay *bangsa*, 'race, nation.'

PDI – October 24, 2001

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## 64 new anesthesiologists conferred

THE PHILIPPINE Board of Anesthesiology (PBA) will be holding its Annual Conferment Ceremonies on Oct. 25 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Sixty-four anesthesiologists will be bestowed the title of Diplomate—a designation reserved for those who have completed specialty training in Anesthesiology and have satisfied the rigid examination requirements of the Board. Secretary Raul S. Roco will be gracing the event as keynote speaker.

Dr. Ludivino G. de Guzman chairs this year's board of examiners (BOE). The other members of the BOE are: Dr. Aurea Z. Ambrosio (vice chair), Dr. Corazon R. Arcangel (secretary), Dr. Nerissa D. Santos (treasurer) and Dr. Benigno M. Sulit Jr., Dr. Restituto C. de Ocampo, Dr. Ernesto F. dela Cerna, Dr. Pablo F. Lazatin III and Dr. Ricardo F. de Castro (members).

In the board of trustees are: Dr. Merle C. Odi (chair), Dr. Lydia M. Egay (vice chair), Dr. Iluminada T. Camagay (secretary), Dr. Anita Campo-So (treasurer), and Dr. Roland S. Capito, Dr. Norma A. Crisostomo, Dr. Alfonso A. Doloroso, Dr. Virgilio T. Genuino and Dr. Manuel V. Silao (members).

The following are the successful candidates: Maribelle P. Agulay-Reyes, Lorlyn B. Alde-Agatep, Luis Antonio R. Aoanan, Jose Apollo J. Arago, Maria Divina E. Arocena, Farah Margarita S. Aure, Josephine R. Banaag-Sabando, Hernan D. Canales, Nicole G. Cang-Chua, Mary Ellen M. Chiong-Perez, Mylene Fatima S. Cobangbang, Juliet E. Cruz, Jose Aurelio V. David, Arturo N. de Leon, Eric M. de Leon, Michelle Olive R. de Leon-Arellano, Ismael P. dela Cruz, Maria Cristina B. dela Cruz, Cristinita M. Delalamon, Maria Teresa Z. Estrellas, Enrico P. Evangelista, Leonidez B. Fernandez, Karl F. Ferrolino, Cynthia M. Fortuno-Andres, Ma. Charina M. Franche, Rhea A. Gargalicana, Faridah B. Guiapar-Wong, Ma. Victoria E. Hernandez, Ralph N. Hilario, Bernadette C. Hogar, Edgardo C. Homez, Arlene D. Jimeno-Hernandez, Geraldine Raphaela B. Jose, Armand P. Lacanilao, Analia P. Legaspi-Uy, Esther D. Macagba-Lagat, Ana Liza C. Marquez-Barrozo, Clifton J. Martires, Ayesa T. Militante-Hilvano, Ferdinand D. Morato, Joselito T. Morete, Ricardo C. Ngo, Jovita L. Nicolas-Camiña, Manuel Nicanor A. Oco III, Jo-An Trilde F. Ocubillo, Clive P. Palmares, Ricardo E. Pinpin, Angelo V. Poblete, Ma. Victoria Pia A. Ramirez, Carolyn P. Ramirez-Yu, Cesar Andrew T. Reyes III, Cecilia Jovette E. Rivera-Puerta, Rachael Marie B. Rosario, Serapio T. Salazar, Jr., Winston B. Saulon, Gil M. Simeon, Roy L. Tan, Fernando C. Trinidad, Arnold S. Uy, Alice B. Uy-Blas, Catherine L. Valencerina, Ma. Clavel M. Victorino, Sandra Teresita S. Yao and Joseph S. Yu.

The Lifestyle
The Polo
1 & 17

**HEAVEN SENT: THE LIFESTYLE BAZAAR**

'Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar' recently signed a contract with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which will be the event's official print media partner. Present at the contract signing were Heaven Sent Bazaar executive director Carmen Jimenez-Ong (left) and the Inquirer corporate relations assistant Lorena Alto. The bazaar will be held on Nov. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at the Manila Polo Club. For more details, call Laila or Debbie at 816-3868, fax 867-1055, or e-mail heavensentbazaar@aol.com.

**BARBIE AND THE NUTCRACKER COLLECTIONS**

Barbie soars with style this Holiday season—inspired by a great mix of varieties in the Nutcracker collections, as displayed above by the Barbie models. Catch the Barbie Holiday Fashion Shows and Musical Plays 2001 at the following SM Supermalls: Oct. 28—SM Megamall, Nov. 4—SM Southmall, and Nov. 11—SM Bacoor. The shows start at 3 p.m. The events are brought to you by Richwell Trading Corp. and Mattel, together with Clover Chips, Goldilocks, David's Salon, Kameraworld, Chips Delight, Goldrush Curls, Wiggles Choco-coated marshmallow, Jack 'N Jill Pretzels, Dunkin Lollypop, Chocolate Nips, Swiss Miss Vanilla Milk Shake, Hyatt Hotel and SM Ice Skating Rink.

## BITS & Clips

### Eye Bank honors donors

CULMINATING the observance of its sixth anniversary, the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines will hold a "Donor Family Recognition Ceremony" on Oct. 27 at the Luneta Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion. Billed as a gathering to recognize the families who, even in their sorrow, selflessly shared the gift of sight with others, the event will also be a chance for the many cornea recipients to show gratitude to their donors. Eye Bank president Dr. Dominga B. Padilla and medical director Jacinto Dyliacco will welcome the donor families and recipients while chaplain David Turnbull, OFM, will give an inspirational message. The Eye Bank functions by processing, procuring, evaluating, storing and distributing corneal and scleral tissue for transplant throughout the country and to several destinations abroad. The Eye Bank may be reached at 893-5995, fax 893-4367, or at e-mail address eyebank@info.com.ph. Visit www.eyebankphilippines.org.

### Geodetic engineers celebrate centennial

THE GEODETIC Engineering (Surveying and Mapping) Profession is celebrating 100 years of service to the nation with the Geodetic Engineering Summit and the organization of the First Philippine Geomatics Congress to be held on Oct. 25 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel. It will be attended by geodetic engineers in government and private sectors. The Geodetic Engineering Centennial Commission has lined up a number of significant activities for the year-long celebration. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Representative Jose Solis will be invited to speak. Namria Administrator Isidro Fajardo and lands bureau director Concordio Zuñiga will give their messages.

### Gov't launches retail treasury bonds

FOLLOWING the successful offering of the Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) last April 2001, the Bureau of Treasury has decided to optimize market acceptability of the RTBs by reopening another tranche with a minimum target of P5 billion. The minimum investment amount is only P5,000. While the coupon rate is 14.25 percent p.a., the yield to maturity that an investor will receive is equivalent to 15.375 percent p.a. since the RTBs will be sold at a discount. RTBs are risk-free, since they are a direct and unconditional obligation of the Republic of the Philippines. The start of the public offering is on Oct. 22 and will end on Oct. 26. In order to make the public more aware of the issue, there will be roadshows in selected cities: Baguio on Oct. 22, Davao on Oct. 24, and Cebu on Oct. 25. The Bureau of Treasury has appointed the following as its exclusive selling agents: BPI Capital Corp, BDO Capital and Investment Corp., the Development Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Investment Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, and PCI Capital Corp.

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# OBITUARIES

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*In loving memory*
*on the First Death Anniversary of*

## EDUARDO "NED" RAMOS

July 29, 1948 to October 24, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches on October 24, 2001:

1. **Sanctuario de San Antonio** .................................. 6:00 PM
   Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City
2. **Sanctuario de San Jose** .................................. 6:00 PM
   Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
3. **Mary the Queen Parish** .................................. 6:00 AM
   Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
4. **Saint Francis Parish Church** .......................... 6:00 AM
   Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
5. **Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy** ...... 6:00 AM
   Mandaluyong City
6. **San Roque Parish** .................................. 6:00 AM
   San Roque Street, Barangka, Mandaluyong City
7. **San Felipe Neri Parish Church** ...................... 6:00 AM
   Mandaluyong City

Request pious readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory.

Thank You,
**Marita, Jet & Billie**

---

## MARIO FERANIL GUEVARA

**Indang, Cavite**

*Peacefully joined his Creator on October 22, 2001.*

His wife **CELIA**; children **ADONA** and **DANTE MARASIGAN**, **FRANCIS ZANDRO**, and **LAWRENCE NELSON**; brothers **Virgilio** and **Camilo Jr.**; sisters **Thelma**, **Adelina**, **Emma** (†), **Linda**, and **Guillermina**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 133 San Gregorio St., Indang, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 27, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the San Gregorio Parish.

---

**The Diocese of Virac**
(Catanduanes)
**The Archdiocese of Regina**
(Saskachewan, Canada)
His brother **Tony**
The Family of **Mr. & Mrs. Martin S. Saribong**
announce with sadness the passing
of

## Reverend Emilio S. Saribong

Born - **18 December 1943**
Ordained Priest - **7 April 1973**
Died - **20 October 2001**

His remains lie in state at Martin S. Saribong residence, San Roque St., Libon, Albay.

Interment will be on Monday, October 29, 2001, 3:00 p.m. at Libon Cemetery after the Funeral Mass at Saint James the Greater Parish Church, Libon, Albay.

---

*Eternal*
*life will*
*swallow*
*up that*
*which*
*can die.*
*God*
*made us*
*for this*
*very*
*reason*
*and*
*He has*
*given us*
*the*
*Spirit*
*as a*
*guarantee*
*that we*
*will live*
*again.*

2 Cor. 5:4-5

---

*"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*

*John 3:16*

## ANITA CASTILLO DENIEGA

**Born on November 3, 1910**

*Peacefully joined our Creator on October 21, 2001 at the age of 90 in Tarrytown, New York, U.S.A.*

Her husband **ENGR. ANTONIO F. DENIEGA** (†); children **MARIETTA**, **JOSE**, **CARMELA**, **EMERITA**, **GERARDO** and **WILFREDO**; daughters-in-law **LUCILLE**, **ELSA MAY** and **CATHRYN**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brothers **JOSE**, **FERNANDO** (†), and **DOMINADOR** (†); sisters-in-law **MAGDALENA**, **REMEDIOS** and **PELAGIA**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 25, 2001 at Bayside, New York, USA.

---

*"May eternal light shine in Heaven upon our dear departed who has ended his earthly journey in the embrace of Christ."*

*St. Joseph Marello*

**The Family of the Oblates of Saint Joseph in the Philippines**
**And the Sison-Mendoza Clan of Rosario, Batangas**
**Announce with deep faith in the Lord that**

## REV. FR. SANCHO M. SISON, OSJ

**Ex-Provincial Superior of the OSJ – Philippine Province**

Has peacefully joined Our Lord on October 22, 2001
at the age of 53.

*His remains lie in state at:*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Blessed Sacrament Parish Church**<br>South City Homes Subdivision<br>Biñan, Laguna | October 22, 2001-<br>October 26, 2001<br>1:00 PM |
| **Sto. Rosario Parish Reception Hall**<br>Rosario, Batangas | October 26, 2001 / 4:00 PM -<br>October 29, 2001 / 8:00 AM |
| **Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph**<br>San Jose, Batangas | October 29, 2001 / 10:00 AM |

The Requiem Mass will be on Monday, October 29, 2001 at 1:00 PM at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph, San Jose, Batangas.

Interment follows at the San Jose Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, we will greatly appreciate your donations to the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

---

*For your kind thoughts and prayers, your generosity and support, and your overwhelming show of love for Butch, Thank You.*

*The Uy Family*

---

## FELIPA TRINIDAD CRISOSTOMO

of Hagonoy, Bulacan and Acropolis, Quezon City

*Peacefully joined our Lord on October 22, 2001*
*at the age of 76.*

Her dearest husband **Santiago**; children **Rolly & Susan**, **Cris & Melit**, **Tess**, **Fina & Obet**, **Arnold & Grace**; grandchildren **Marco**, **Joseph**, **Patrick**, **Paula**, **Carlo**, **Caren**, **Matt**, **Aika**, **Gio**, **Raph**, **Vini**, **Gino & G-Ann**; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 25, 2001 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Baesa, Caloocan City, after the 9:00 AM Mass.

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# PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

# Visa-holder asks, 'should I migrate or stay?'

U.S.
ATTACK
US
VISA
STEPH B.
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

**I AM a 36-year-old manager, married and with two children in high school. Recently, I received my visa to migrate to the United States. However, with the recent terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, I am starting to have second thoughts. I am wondering whether my children will have a better and safer future here or in the United States. It is for the sake of the future of the children that we are migrating. I waited many years for this visa to become a reality. I have a number of relatives in the US who are happily waiting for us. Please give me advice.**

**Puzzled Potential Migrant**

Going over your letter, I realize there are no quick and easy answers. Whether here or in the United States, or any other country, there is no such place we can call Paradise where one is assured of complete happiness and security. But you are right, the recent World Trade Center attack has truly been, as headlined in The Economist magazine, "The Day the World Changed."

Up to now it was an inalienable right of human life to be able to draft a plan of life from a professional or an individual viewpoint, says Bonhoffer, a philosopher. But things have changed. By force of circumstances, we have been thrown into a situation where we must renounce thinking for tomorrow. Often, giving up planning for the future drives most people into an irresponsible, superficial surrender to the limitations of the moment. But there is a better path of taking each day as if it were the last and of living with faith and responsibility as if a great future is still in store for us.

## Reflections

Now, how do we live the future with faith and responsibility? These past weeks, I have been blessed with the reflections of people all over the world. They explored causes and possible solutions to terrorism. In essence, their reflections tell me that out of the ashes of the WTC tragedy, there is a chance to develop a more caring, more gentle, united world and enlightened superpowers such as the US and Britain. Let me share with you some of their insights that may serve to balance the ugly and negative side of this tragedy.

Pastor Rick Warren of California tries to give an answer to the question why God permitted the tragedy to happen. "Why does God allow human beings to hurt each othzer? The answer lies in both our greatest blessing and our worst curse: our capacity to make choices. God has given us free will. Made in God's image, he has given us the freedom to decide how we will act and the ability to make moral choices. People often make selfish, self-centered and evil choices. Whenever that happens, people get hurt. Sin is ultimately selfishness. Unfortunately, sin always hurts others not just ourselves."

## Deep wounds

Still another famous writer talks about probing the deep wound that hurts humanity. Deepak Chopra proposes that we go to the root of evil, not superficially but at the deepest level and that there is no doubt that evil is alive all around the world and is even celebrated. He advises that we pray and offer solace and help to each other. He says that if you and I have a single thought of violence or hatred against anyone in the world at this moment, we are contributing to the wounding of the world.

## Human spirit

Jim Garrison, the President of the State of the World Forum, says, "As we mourn our dead, let us mourn the frailty of the human spirit and humanity's incapacity to be consistently humane." He declares that the war against terrorism can only be won when we also declare war on the roots that cause such acts of barbarity: poverty, illiteracy, injustice and disease. He believes that terrorism does not arise in a vacuum but has its roots in historic, political and economic dysfunctions, so deep, so cruel, so systemic that they create and sustain discontent until it spills over to desperation that sees no recourse other than wanton destruction against those responsible. He says that the only solution is to stop the underlying causes working within the community of nations.

Chiara Lubich, President of Focolare, is also convinced that God will produce something good from this terrible tragedy. She believes that the United States, because of its multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural character, can present to the world a model of unity. She says that it is necessary to mobilize not only the political field but also the religious world for the sake of good. Her solution is universal brotherhood.

Rigoberta Tum, Nobel Prize awardee for Peace, proposes that we heed the Code of Ethics for the new millennium. "There will be no peace, if there is no justice. There will be no justice if there is no equity. There will be no equity if there is no progress. There will be no progress if there is no democracy. There will be no democracy if there is no respect for the identity of peoples and cultures."

## Muslim advice

John Robbins of the Foundation for Global Community proposes asking the mainstream Muslim world for advice. "We must go to them and ask them what they would have us do. And then, we must listen to them deeply. We will have to understand and take seriously their concerns. This means reorienting our policies so that they undermine the purposes of terrorism and retain the support of moderate Muslim states. Our problem is not with Islam. (He says there was a mosque in one of the towers.) At the time the first plane hit, 500 Muslims were gathered in prayer. Many of them are believed to have died. Let us go out of our way to treat peace-loving Muslims with respect and friendship. Let us make ourselves available to walk their children to school or to stand by them if they are afraid and feel unsafe."

In conclusion, I advice, go ahead and proceed with your US adventure. Live with faith and responsibility for the future. Continue to pursue your vision with strong faith in the God who holds our future in His hands.

*(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc* @pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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YUPPIE HEAVEN

# IBM creates mobile corporate workplace for balanced work life

BY VINCENT CABREZA

BAGUIO CITY—Ramon Yap Dimacali, chair and chief executive officer of IBM Philippines, only has a single desk to boast of inside the virtual management world that the country's largest information technology firm has become. On top of this seeming austerity, Dimacali is perhaps also the only top corporate executive in the country today who dutifully shares his personal computer with his employees.

IBM's corporate center has little of the clutter of frantic clerks and their busy-as-bees supervisors, that greets customers on any given workday, Dimacali told delegates to the 38th National Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) at the Baguio Country Club last week.

## Working at home

That's because more than half of Dimacali's staff actually work at home—cutting substantial costs on overtime work, the strain of Metro Manila traffic and the corporate grind's "erosive impact on domestic bliss."

For these corporate changes, he said his employees have learned "to love IBM" and the rest of Corporate Philippines are joining that love affair.

IBM is this year's recipient of the PMAP Outstanding Personnel Program Award, for practicing what it preaches.

On most spiels that sell IBM's new management profile to other companies, the IBM work style is defined as the purest application of the "remote workforce principle," which cost-cutting firms have been aiming for in the last decade.

The ordinary cellular phone, a regular IBM Thinkpad and an average key pad, allow IBM employees "mobility...in order to adapt to a market environment of changing customer expectations and intense competition," according to an abstract of the IBM system.

"Mobility is commonly used to describe an environment where workers are able to access information and perform their work anywhere at any time. Mobility thus becomes the foundation for rendering innovative customer services (because it) requires flexible work practices, a new work style philosophy, management by objectives rather than control and technological maximization."

But in reality, Dimacali said the work style is the best in Philippine social engineering because it copes with the "individuality, family values and efficiency of a suddenly youthful Filipino executive force."

## New breed

The growing members of this executive force fall between the ages 25 and 35 years, the members of the so-called Generations X and Y.

"You really cannot instill fear on these generations... These are your kids who do not just respect authority (on demand), who went to school because that was where their closest friends could be found. (Corporate Philippines) will need to study and understand (this new generation of workers)," Dimacali said.

He said technology also runs the lives of these two generations—a convenient factor that has made IBM's "virtual work rooms" an acceptable corporate Filipino innovation. "We live in a connected world. All our technologies are interconnecting...and almost everyone in the country today is connected (by television, radio, the computer or by newspapers)," he said.

But he pointed out that the computer had little difficulty in being marketed to a global society. "It took the radio 75 years to be accepted. It took television 50 years, and it took the cable television industry 20 years to be accepted. But it only took five years for the personal computer to reach many people. That is very fast... (considering) the adoption rate. For every given moment, 50 million people are discovering the functional applicability of the personal computer,"' he said.

This data suggests how much technology floods the country's economics. "Technology will change business practices (because) there is more technology today than (what) we need,"' the IBM chair said.

## 'Hoteling'

Its consequence for IBM had been radical. Its own technology allowed IBM to do away with all its basic executive rooms and all the logistics that are required by a typical corporate boardroom, a typical workroom and a typical employees' lounge. In their places, IBM Philippines introduced the concept of "hoteling." Dimacali said the concept took its name from the basic hotel service that offers its clients a transient period of stay, food and luxury.

Field employees or customers saunter into the moderately furnished lounging areas of IBM, access IBM through a series of IBM terminals, which have replaced desks, and make their appropriate transactions.

These IBM monitors are locked into a virtual IBM library and databank, and are operated under a share-time system. "You can do your work anywhere there because everyone can share the computer, but it will disconnect you after a given time," Dimacali said.

The IBM system opens into a basic databank for customers, for day-to-day queries, transactions, sales or purchases. "The IBM man can be somewhere else at the moment, but he can interact with his client through the IBM system and settle the customer's requests in real time, even when he is at Starbucks and the client is in Libis (Quezon City)," Dimacali said.

## Virtual school

For employees, the IBM system also accesses into a "virtual university," which allows workers an interactive outlet regarding IBM's day-to-day grind, including real-time surveys. It also allows employees the added benefit of tailoring their company benefits, including styling medical plans or insurance plans, according to their lifestyles.

"The single employee will not need the kind of standard benefit plans many companies offer a family man. So we allow them the choice," Dimacali said. IBM's new orientation for work flexibility demanded this option, he explained.

He admitted that the change was not an easy choice for IBM. "It took from 1995 to the present to make these changes... We first had to remove rooms and managers. I don't even have a room. I have a table and a small computer. Can you imagine a manager coming home to his wife to tell her he lost his executive room? He will lose his wife!" Dimacali said smiling.

## Traffic

But Dimacali told PMAP that the average corporate worker's travails from the Makati traffic were already a compelling reason for IBM's change in management. "Aren't your people brooding about traffic when they come to work everyday? For many of them, they go home and (no longer) want to come back to work... This is the reason why IBM made a change of location from Makati to Libis because we don't want our clients to endure that kind of experience," Dimacali said.

But IBM's reliance in remote-labor has not affected corporate efficiency, he stressed. Dimacali said the flow of work allows employees to cut down on overtime because functional transactions are conditioned to their counterpart IBM offices' work hours abroad.

"I can send work to New York and go home after five, because I know the man in New York will work on the same sequence and will file these papers to Switzerland, before he ends his day. Switzerland sends them to India, and India sends them back to the Philippines when I come back for work or access the IBM network at 9 of the following morning. So no work schedule is compromised and we maximize productivity without sacrificing the Filipino family," he said.

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

**BUKAS** Palad Foundation, Inc., a non-government organization that provides an integrated assistance program for the urban poor in various communities in the country, represented by Edna Villaroza, its Executive Director, receives a check donation from Rene Reinoso, SVP for Sales and Marketing of Philippine Daily Inquirer. The donation came from the proceeds of the **People *at* Work Live! Seminar Series**, an INQUIRER project that aims to provide high value and low-cost learning opportunities to working people. From left are: Tita Puangco, People at Work columnist; Edna Villaroza; Rene Reinoso; Celine Madamba, INQUIRER's Corporate Relations Officer; and Regina Reyes, People at Work editor.

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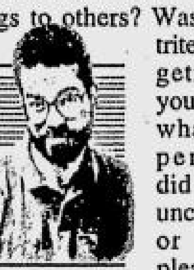
# How do you deal with a coworker who breaks a promise?



WORKING WOUNDED

*By Bob Rosner*

**Dear WW: A guy at work promised to help me out on something and then didn't. As a result I got in trouble with my boss. I'm rather quit my job than have to deal with this jerk again.**

**His Pants Are On Fire**

I recently interviewed Mark Young, CEO of the Guinness Book of World Records. Mark told me about Julia Genuse, the person who holds the Guinness world record for having the most tattoos. Ninety-five percent of her body is covered with colored ink! People who pass her on the street assume she's making a statement with all that art. But the simple truth is that Julia has a skin disease and the tattoos help keep her skin from blistering.

Well, just as there's an underlying reason for all the surface art on Julia, there might be a below-the-surface reason for why your coworker let you down. Before you end your relationship—or your job—I suggest you do a little probing. Check out the book "Reading People" (Random House, 1998) by former O.J. Simpson jury consultant, Jo-Ellan Dimitrius. Dimitrius's tips are as relevant at work as they are in the courtroom and I've adapted the following questions from them.

1. Did something prevent your colleague from honoring his commitment? We've all made commitments that we meant to honor but didn't because something got in the way. Give your buddy the benefit of the doubt and ask him to tell you his side of the story.

2. Did he make his promise too quickly? Ever make a commitment to someone in an elevator or hallway only to regret it later? Sure, the guy should have told you he couldn't do what he promised. But did you 'fess up beforehand every time?

3. Does your colleague have trouble saying "no?" Some people make promises because they don't know how not to; they haven't mastered the art of saying "no." Has this person over-promised before? Has he done so with other people? If he seems to suffer from "yes-itis," tell him you'd rather hear "no" than a promise he can't keep. (Then remember not to bite his head off next time he tells you he can't do something!)

4. Did he really intend not to keep his word? Some promise-breakers are evil. They're determined to get what they want at any cost and don't mind letting people down in the process. But before you assume this is the case, examine the evidence. Has this person benefited by letting you down? Has he done similar things to others? Was he contrite or apologetic when you told him what happened—or did he seem unconcerned or even pleased?

Fortunately, very few promise-breakers fall into the last category. Most are just doing their best to get by. You know what Yogi Berra said, don't you? "If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be." And neither would people. We're all a walking mass of imperfections. In fact, you could say we've got them tattooed all over.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: Which song do you sing when you discover a colleague lied to you?

—Life in the Fast Lane, 16.4 percent

—Life is a Balancing Act, 37 percent

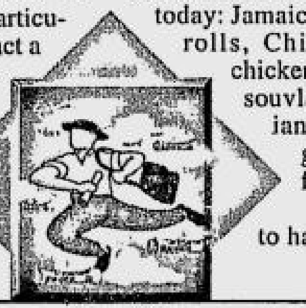
—Life Without You, 46.5 percent

The winning strategy for dealing with someone who lies to you at work comes from James F. in Katy, TX. "Be upfront with the individual. Ask the person in private conversation if it is true that he/she lied on you and, if so, to please give the reason. If the person will not give an honest answer, just simply forgive that person and go on with your life. Grudges and hard feelings are a tremendous weight to carry for a problem that may not be yours."

*(E-mail feedback to* bob @workingwounded.com.*)*

# Is globalization any good?

BY RESTY S. ODON



**POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE**

I HAVE a job that rubs that question in my face. The company I work for "processes" information from around the world. In particular, we code, encode, index and abstract a lot of reading materials. We convert and store the information into a database and sell the database in different forms, chiefly in Internet-accessible formats.

We work on journals from places as diverse as Israel, Denmark, India and Croatia. The work necessitates that we recognize a lot of printed languages just by looking. (Did you know that Ukrainian is different from Russian, though they use the same alphabet?) We have to deal everyday with exotic diacritical marks (ever heard of circe, tilde, cedilla, grave?) and incomprehensible letters (lambda, gimel, etc), not to mention non-English address terms (vej, weg, strasse, Marg, strada, Jalan, gate, avenida, cadde—all mean street or avenue).

I'm aggrieved no end that so far, after almost a decade, we have never worked on any Philippine publication. We even work on journals from Bangladesh and Vietnam, darn it! And I am talking about the extensive fields of engineering, psychology and medicine.

It used to be that our competitors for this job were Western English-speaking areas like Scotland. We eventually won out due to lower labor cost. Now, we have to contend with India and China. Fortunately, our edge in the mastery of (American) English keeps us in our clients' employ.

## Borderless business

This business-without-borders has made me somewhat keenly aware that I live in a shrinking world, shrinking to the size of an apple. A typical Filipino, I'm a product of a strange genetic mix—Malay, Chinese, Spanish. Already, I belong to a culture confused about who and what we are.

I need not get out of the house to get infected with this confusing virus of globalization. I sway to jazz, techno and reggae. My FM radio is chockful of MTV music; one station plays Pavarotti. I open the cable TV at random and what do I see? A French variety show. An Indian sitar being played. Japanese pokemons and anime. Chinese shoguns. Meanwhile, I get sidetracked by a cooking show and what do I learn? How to make falafel (Arabian), chimichanga (Mexican), and chicken cacciattore (Italian), all in one go.

On certain days in my workplace, a prospective client from Malaysia comes for a visit and I have to deal with a strange accent. The last company I worked for, a thoroughly American one, had Pakistanis, Egyptians and other nationalities as members of the board of the directors.

## International mall

After work, malling is a continuation of this amazing window to global diversity. It gives me the feeling of a great onrush of an opening floodgate. For one, there's the dizzying array of fast food and restaurants, so dizzying it makes you numb. Our ancient folks would never believe that this cornucopia of global tastes would be available at one's fingertips today: Jamaican patties, Vietnamese spring rolls, Chinese dimsum, Thai spicy chicken, Mongolian barbecue, Greek souvlaki, Japanese sushi, Hungarian sausages, Mexican tequila, gluten made by Hindu vegans formed and cooked like meat.

At the malls I am fortunate to have seen foreign films on different occasions, too, art films from Korea, Japan, Sweden, France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, and Brazil.

Right now, I live in Pasay where I get to exchange suspicious stares with Vietnamese refugees a lot. As it is, I live in a metropolis of regional dialects and cuisine (Ilonggo Grill's *bachoy* and chicken *inasal*, Cabalen's *taba ng talangka* from Pampanga).

Recently, I did a check on SM's grocery shelves and what did I see? Green maraschino cherries. White fungus. Tarragon vinegar, salsa, jalapeño sauce. Cranberry preserves, plums, dates. Gouda cheese. Lasagna and taco shells. Ready-to-cook hash brown. Wasabe. Pound cakes. Diced tomatoes in can. Green and orange fettucini. To think that SM is so *masa.*

## Level playing field

So this is what globalization is all about, huh? More varied and unbelievably affordable imports from as far as Guatemala and Belgium flooding the market with no thought as to its ill effects on our livelihood at home. If global business borders have really demolished, the playing field leveled, the self-defense of protectionism abolished, then I have a reason to believe that our products are flooding Guatemala and Belgium just as well, right?

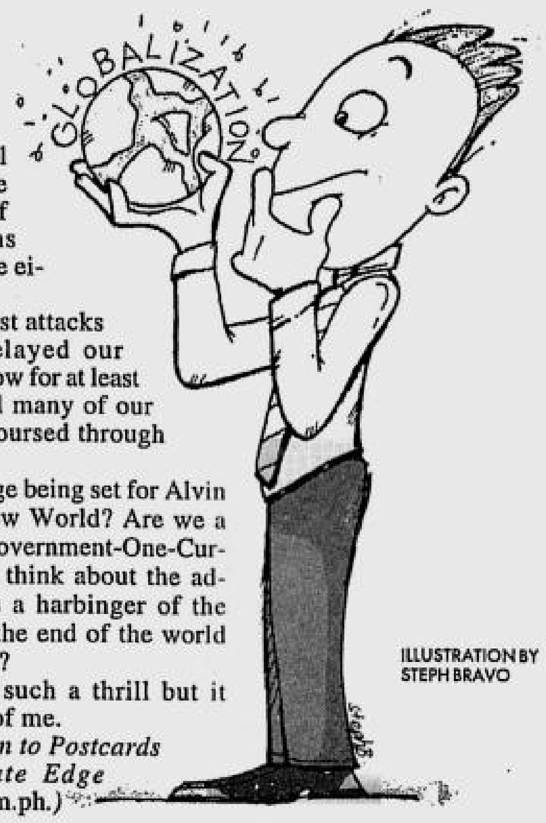
Grocery cart on hold, I cringed from the mere thought of globalization. Trade liberalization. It means stiff competition without the safety nets. It means turmoil or instability in one forgotten corner of the world. It means symbiosis that can be either good or bad.

The recent terrorist attacks in the US have delayed our workload and workflow for at least a week. We realized many of our journals are being coursed through New York City.

Tell me, is the stage being set for Alvin Toeffler's Brave New World? Are we a few steps to a One-Government-One-Currency system? (Just think about the advent of the Euro as a harbinger of the things to come.) Is the end of the world (as we know it) nigh?

Globalization is such a thrill but it scares the heck out of me.

*(Send contribution to Postcards from the Corporate Edge* rreyes @inquirer.com.ph.*)*



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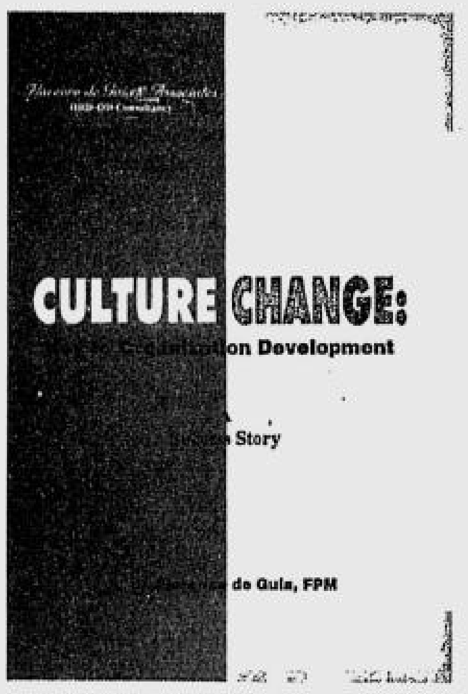
## EDITOR'S PICK



IF YOU want to build an organization to last, organizational development is a strategic consideration. However, references on this topic are mostly written by foreign authors based on experiences of companies abroad. Finally, a definitive book by a Filipino author and based on experiences in a Philippine company is out in the market.

The book is "Culture Change: Key to Organization Development." The author, Dr. Florence de Guia, former senior vice president of the Philippine National Bank Institute of Banking, has written a comprehensive and experience-laden book on organizational development based on her achievements in this field in PNB. She is the only Filipino who has received an award from the American Society for Training and Development called the Management Development Award for Quality in recognition of her contribution to the development of an MBA in Banking and Finance Degree program for PNB management personnel. This book is available at National Book Store.

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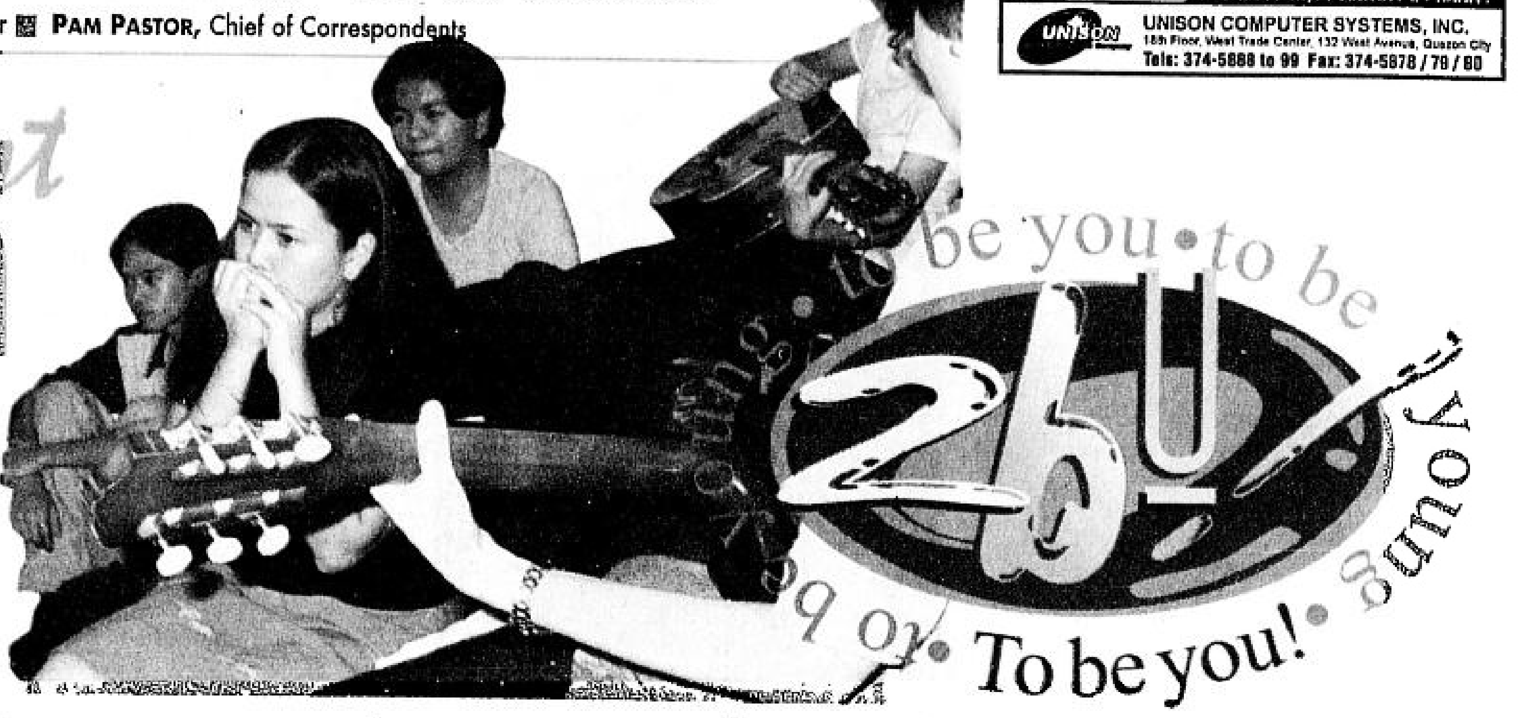
## In your wildest dream

Sort out your dreams, try on your dream jobs for size, and find out the dreams that fuel UAAP hotshot rookie Mark Cardona and Coke's newest model in this dream machine of an issue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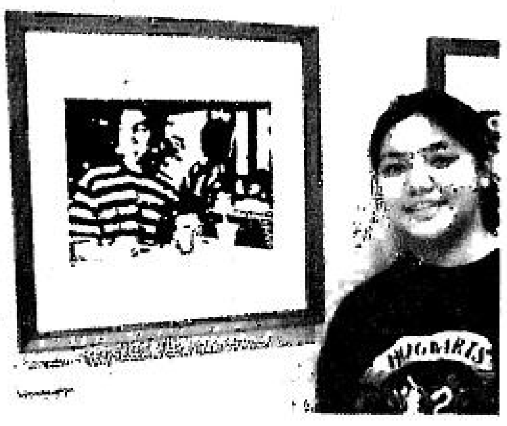

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## YOUR WISH IS 2BU!'S COMMAND

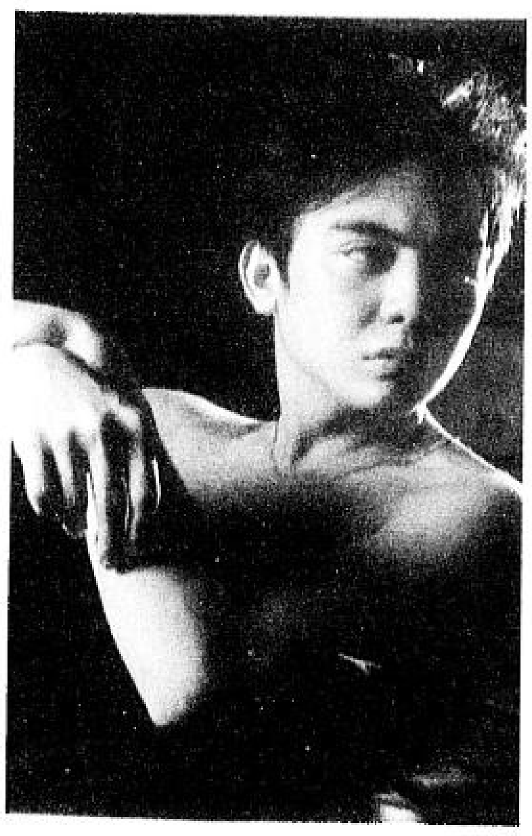
# For one brief shining moment, he hugs spotlight

**Photos and art direction**
**By Mike Alquinto**

AFTER WE came out with the announcement that we wanted to thank you by trying to make your dreams come true, we were swamped with requests. Some were possible—dates with celebrities, hanging out with correspondents (a few of the wishes are being worked out already). But other dreams were a bit out of our league—the trip to Australia and to Vienna will have to be in the back burner for a looong time.

This week, 2bU! makes the first wish come true. Reader Christine Alejaga told us of her friend and classmate, Chris Sta. Brigida, who has a lot of reasons to celebrate this October. The 21-year-old graduated last Saturday and will be celebrating his birthday on Oct. 30.

Christine wanted to surprise Chris and she asked us if we could make him the subject of a 2bU! pictorial. This guy is constantly thinking about other people, according to her. It was about time the limelight focused on him. Besides, Christine and their other classmates wanted to see a different side of Chris, at least fashionwise. His friends wanted to see him drop the preppy look even just once and briefly.



2bU! waved its magic wand and, last Sunday, Chris was transformed from a serious-minded new graduate into a hot model.

After the shoot, we all headed to Glorietta for a short chat. Chris, who just graduated from the De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde with a degree in consular and diplomatic affairs is not through with school yet. He is currently applying for a scholarship in the United States where he intends to get a master's degree in diplomacy.

**How does it feel to be a new graduate?**

It hasn't sunk in yet. I think it's because I still want to study. I think I enjoyed my college life too much.

**What is your greatest dream?**

My dreams aren't for myself. *Minsan hindi ako makatulog sa gabi sa kaiisip ko kung paano ko mapapaganda ang* Manila *at* Pilipinas. *Hindi ko maintindihan kung bakit hindi tayo makaahon. Ang dami namang magagaling na* Pinoy—*ano yung kulang*? I took up my course because I want to improve the way the rest of the world looks at Filipinos. I've traveled all over and I feel that I'm being discriminated against because of my color and origin. That really hurts. I am not saying Filipinos should be No. 1; I just want us to be treated equally. I want to leave the country to gain knowledge and establish myself so that I can help the Philippines when I come back here.

**What is your passion?**

Movies.

**Describe yourself in one word.**

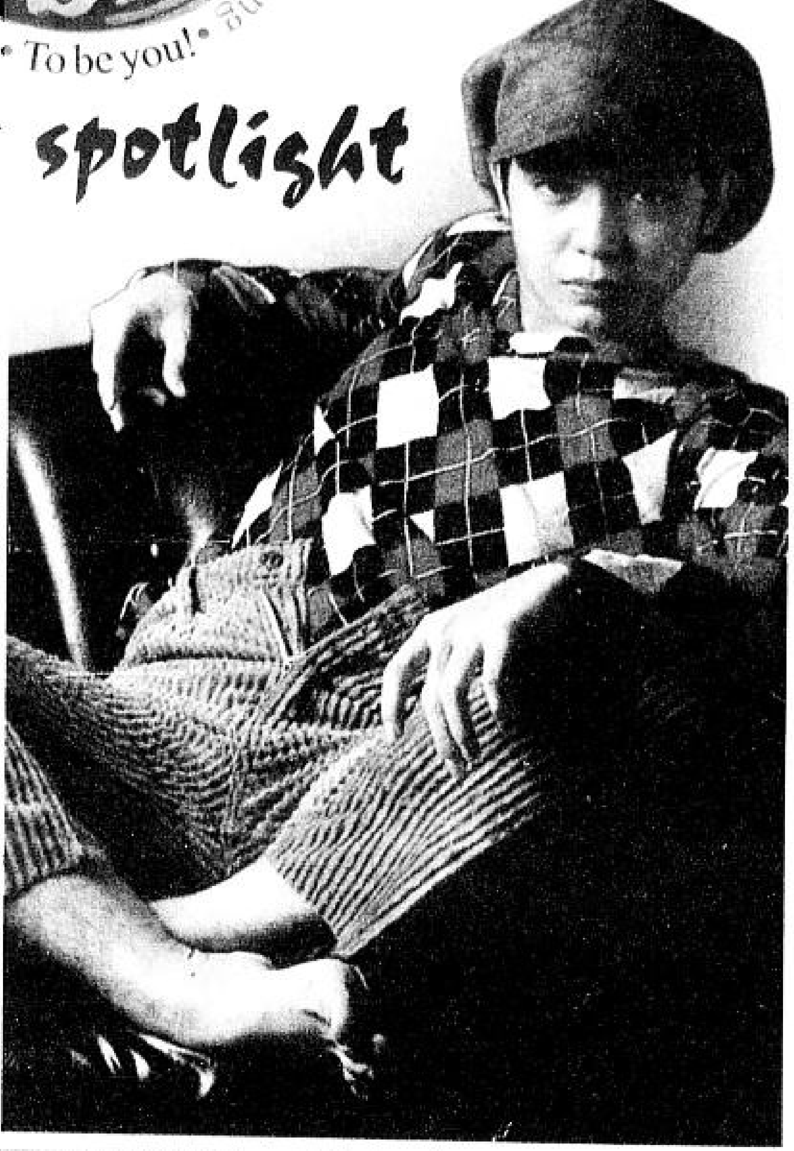
Friend.

**How will you celebrate your birthday?**

I don't like planning. But this time, I think I want to surprise my friends. They always say I'm *kuripot*. Now, I might ask them out and treat [them to a meal].

**How do you feel about the shoot?**

When I found out about it, I said, "*Bakit ako*?" *Kinabahan ako*. I don't normally do these things. I didn't know if I should prepare, if I should get a haircut. I didn't know what to do. I told the photographer to just tell me what to do and I'd do it. After a while, though, I became comfortable. *Ang saya*! And when the photographer said, "Last *na*," I said, "*Ay*, last *na*?" It helped that the he was really nice. At first I thought he was scary because he looked intimidating. But he made me feel at ease.



**No regrets?**

*Masaya*! I'm just nervous now because I don't know how the pictures would come out.

**Which was your favorite outfit?**

The black one. *Parang* "Matrix" *'yung dating*.

*Warp's new shop is now open in Apartment 2C, RPM Building, 614 Boni Ave. corner Sikap St., Mandaluyong City. A brand-new 25-piece avant-garde collection for Halloween will be modeled by different personalities on Oct. 31 at the "Witches and Wizards' Ball" at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City. The event will be sponsored by 2bU!*

*E-mail your wishes to ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.*

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## 2BU!'S HALLOWEEN GIG GUIDE

# So, are you ready with your costumes?

BY TIM YAP

**WHEN two giants collide . . . ," as the cliché goes. Well, this Halloween—that's next Wed to you and me—not only will giants get-together, but a coven of magical creatures will take centerstage come all Hallow's eve, with the biggest one being staged by almighty Ayala Center, with the musical madness of MTV as eerie other.**

"Witches and Wizards Ball" at the Glorietta Activity Center promises a potent brew of fashion, music and dancing with dandy designs from Milkwear and a grand ghoulish gala by Warp. Now if that's not enough, come in your enchanted best—you may just win the two trips to Paris up at stake, plus top-of-the-line magic wands from Globe Telecom and treats from 2bU!—as patrons of this bewitching night.

Come... as a centaur, as Dumbledore, Hermione, the Durselys, or a Power Puff, Lara Croft, Elvis, a mummy, a Moulin Rouge star, an Addams Family member, Edward Scissorhands, a "Survivor" contestant, Kylie Minogue, Madonna, Ronald McDonald, Rosebud or Ador, Britney or Christina, or any character you wish—this is your chance to turn your fantasies into reality!

No boring "muggles" (Harry Potter-Hogwarts talk) allowed in this "strictly costume" event, which starts at 9 p.m., lest you want to be punished by shelling out not-so-few shillings for the price of your un-uniformed entry. Huge discounts for GenTxters after the strike of midnight, when the gates open for owls out for the treacherous taking. Mwahahahaha! (I think I'm getting the spooky genres confused.)

At the castle halls, lush trees provide a backdrop for the revelry about to take place. Candelabras and gold leaf surround the altar, where a parade of personalities in funky forms, from "it" guys and girls to rock stars—Mylene Dizon, Epi Quizon, Ira Cruz, Robin da Roza, Nathan Azarcon, to name a few. Celebrity DJs take turns on the spinning table, culminating in a surprise foreign techno act—I am quivering already in anticipation.

### This week's hair-raising happenings

Tonight until this weekend, prepare your party spirits as a warm-up to the Halloween night. The scary season beckons with tricks and treats in exchange for the partyphile's soul.

Sari-Sari does it the second time around with Venezia. A fashion show with scenesters donning the variety of the hip boutique's clothes takes place atop the bar. One by one, college guys and gals romp the ramp in this young and yummy feast.

At Rockwell Center, a San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest concert with Brownman Revival and Brownbeat All Stars happens tonight. And it's free! Also billiards, tattooing, jugglers and magicians all night, not to mention free-flowing SMB. What are you waiting for?

Thursday night is the much-awaited gala of designer Rhett Eala at the RCBC Plaza. Through the years, he has gained quite a following with his Due line at Rustan's. Now, he strikes on his own, opening up Wink with business partner Cindy Yang. Fly, Rhett, fly!

### Pajama Jam

The San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest will have its last string of parties this season (Awww). Expect a big beer shebang to signal the beginning of yet another beer drinking season in not one, but two venues this Friday.

The Tomas Morato area near Virgin Café doubles up as a stage for national SMB drinking contests, among other happenings. Bands include Sabor Latino, Brown Man Revival, K247 with Zhar, Silk and The Dawn. The Maria Orosa strip by Holiday Inn will also have concerts with Righteous Act, Family Cruz band, Noty Note, Divas, Echoblast and Fat Session taking the stage by storm.

After hours, from midnight onward of Friday, MTV Morning show hosts "Pajama Jam!"—don your best pajamas at Wherelse's Friday night spectacular, "Oasis" as beds and more beds fill the club. Now is the time to get laid!

Come Saturday, Bench launches the book "Pinoy Pop Culture" at the NBC Tent. It's about time that somebody showcased Darna, Dolphy, La Aunor and other cult faves. That same day, a Big Fish rave happens at Planet Rock, with UK club Cream on the tables.

### Other Halloween happenings

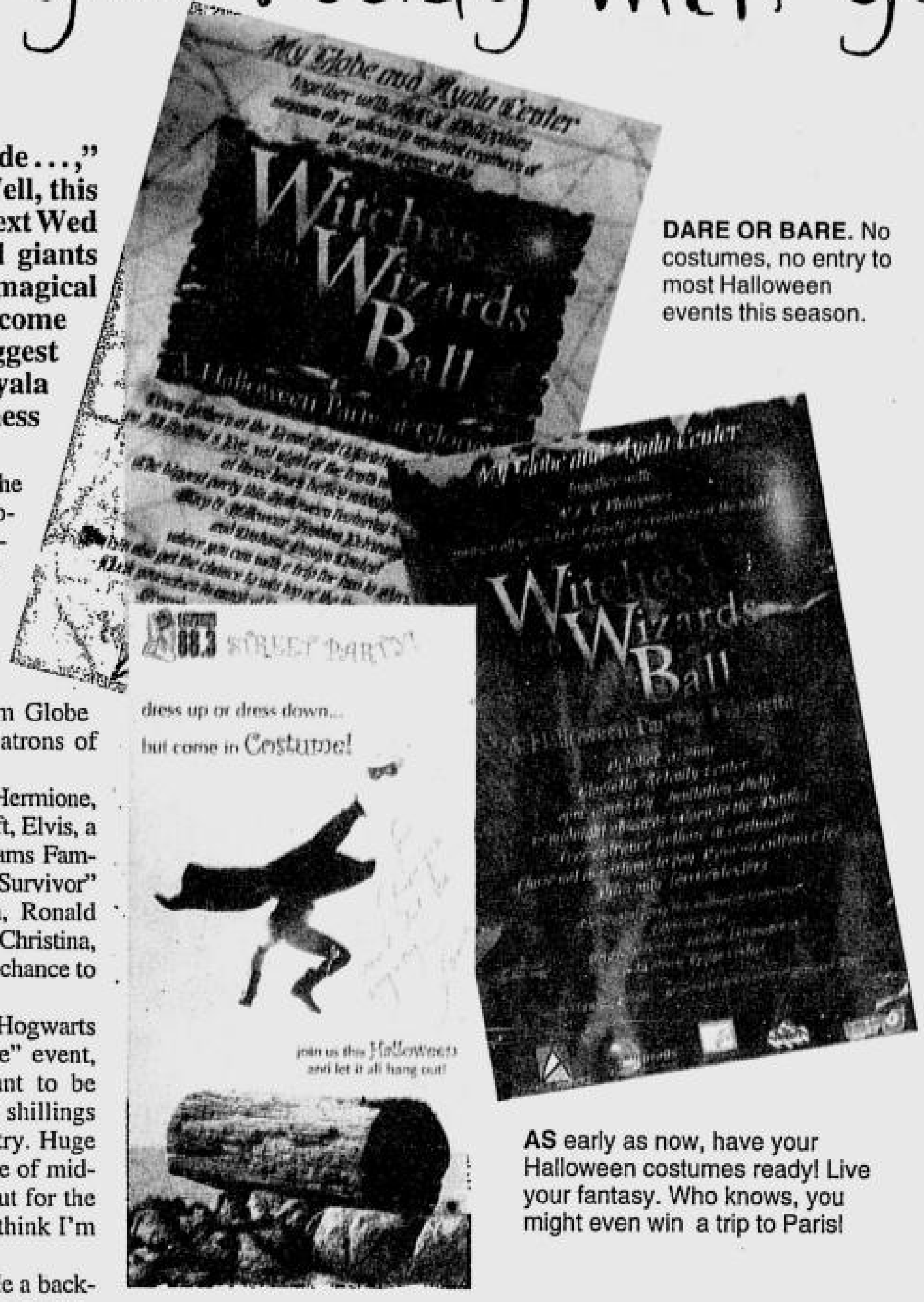
Aside from the Ayala Center Halloween hip parade, the NBC people have cooked up their own shebang—"Planet Love" at the Tent with DJ John Robinson of Tokyo and Culture Club, Libis fame spins his lustful language this Halloween Eve. "This will be a grand, love filled event!" says NBC's Tina Tinio.

NBK, on the other hand, has their Halloween DJ showdown at 78 Orange.

Malate won't be far behind as the Larry J. Cruz launches the book "Malate: A Matter of Taste." The food and people who define a lifestyle will be present—have a taste of Malate at its best at Bistro Remedios.

After that, strip off all your costumes or go bare—dress up or dress down, but come in costume at Café Havana as style file Laura Verallo de Berttoto hosts this VMV party with City Lite 88.3. It also marks the opening of Raymund Isaac's new exhibit, "Unexplored Id," plus VMV's Holiday Colour Collection and Rajo Laurel '01 FFFabulous! Ain't that fab?

So are you ready for the Halloween hop?


My Globe and Ayala Center
Witches and Wizards Ball
A Halloween Party at Glorietta
88.3 STREET PARTY!
dress up or dress down...
but come in Costume!
join us this Halloween and let it all hang out!

DARE OR BARE. No costumes, no entry to most Halloween events this season.

AS early as now, have your Halloween costumes ready! Live your fantasy. Who knows, you might even win a trip to Paris!

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

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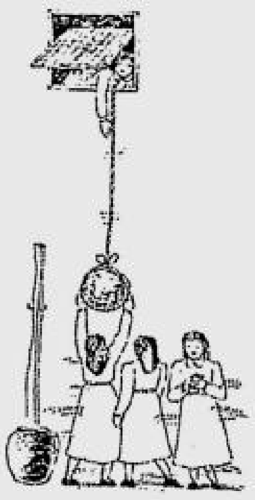
SINCE 1936
the Aristocrat
RESTAURANT

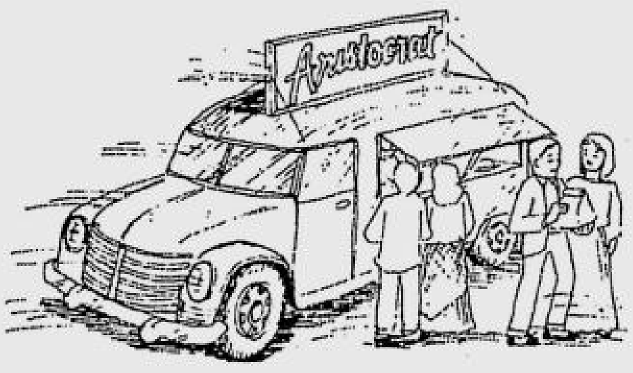
# Aristocrat Moments

**Wedding of Alex and Asiang**
The marriage of Alex and Engracia 'Aling Asiang' Reyes produced thirteen children - Andy, Arturo, Teresita, Esperidion, Mario, Jose, Herminia, Ma. Luisa, Alex Jr., Consuelo, Armando, Benjamin, and Victor. Alex, an upright man of impeccable integrity, lived by the measly salary of a civil servant. This prompted Aling Asiang to put her culinary talents into entrepreneurial use.

### St. Theresa's College Food Smuggling



To make ends meet, Aling Asiang opened a food kiosk called the 'Lapu-Lapu", a name that honors the first Filipino hero with a culinary connotation. The colegialas of St. Theresa's College immediately took a liking to the specialties of the Lapu-Lapu. In fact, the students made a peculiar arrangement with Aling Asiang - they would lower a basket with cash from a window conveniently above the Lapu-Lapu which would be loaded with pre-ordered food and then pulled back up.



### Rolling Store

*The Aristocrat* was initially an old battered Ford that was modified into a rolling store at the cost of seventy pesos. It was parked at the corner of Dewey Blvd. (now known as Roxas Blvd.) and San Andres St., and the windows were opened to give customers an inside peek on how their food was being prepared. History shows that this humble canteen-on-wheels is not to be belittled. On one July fourth celebration, *The Aristocrat* sold 8,000 adobo sandwiches at 20 centavos each.

# The Aristocrat

## Food fit for royalty

Many of the most well-loved fairy tales revolve around the plight of common men and women who, by lots of virtue and plenty of luck, climb out of poverty reaching goals once thought unachievable.

Such is the story of Alex and Engracia 'Aling Asiang' Reyes, a simple hardworking couple whose small venture into the restaurant business 65 years ago allowed them to prevail over hardship and forever etched an indelible icon in the Filipino food industry - *The Aristocrat*.

### Once Upon A Time

Theirs was an unlikely union.

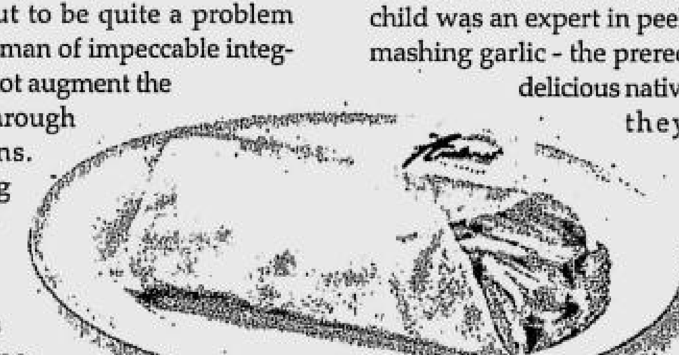
Aling Asiang was a grade school graduate, plain housewife, and doting mother who had the uncanny ability to cook great-tasting native dishes.

Alex, on the other hand, was a well educated University of the Philippines law graduate who finished fourth during the bar exams of 1914. He pursued a promising career in the judiciary and rose quickly from Assistant Clerk of Court at the Municipal Court of Manila immediately after graduation. Although Alex became Undersecretary of Justice in less than 15 years, the Reyeses produced more children than a civil servant's salary could support comfortably. At final count, there were all thirteen of them - Andy, Arturo, Teresita, Esperidion, Mario, Jose, Herminia, Ma. Luisa, Alex Jr., Consuelo, Armando, Benjamin, and Victor.

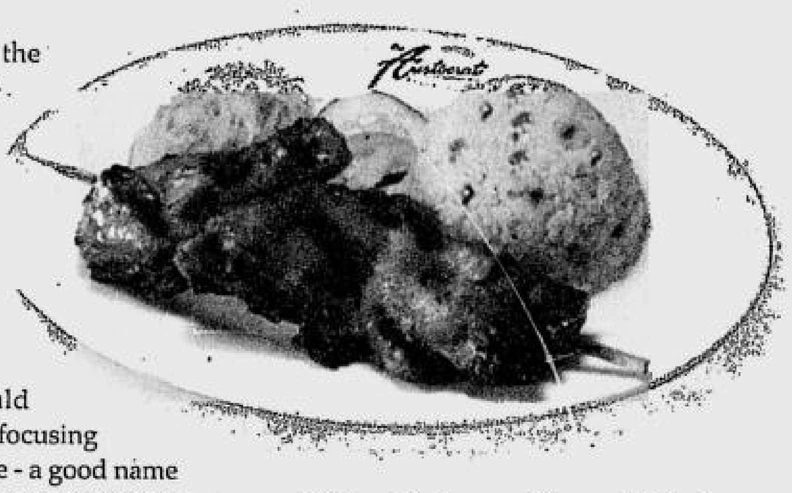
> ***Alex Reyes was a government employee of impeccable integrity who would not compromise his principles by augmenting the family income through nefarious means. Aling Asiang showed her love for her husband by valuing his principles and putting her culinary talents to entrepreneurial use to help support their growing family.***

This turned out to be quite a problem since Alex was a man of impeccable integrity who would not augment the family income through nefarious means. Aling Asiang showed her love for her husband by valuing his principles. This was the driving force behind putting her culinary talents to entrepreneurial use.

Decades later, Alex would become Solicitor General, and climb all the way up to Associate Justice at the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court Associate Justice. Even then, he would apologize to his wife, *"Pasensya ka na hindi kita ginawang mayaman."* But Aling Asiang would brush away this concern focusing instead on what they have - a good name and a loving, harmonious family.



*Fresh Lumpiang Ubod - Heart of palm, pork, and shrimps wrapped in crepe, served with brown sauce with crushed garlic and peanuts.*



*Chicken Barbecue - Three grilled pieces of marinated chicken made even tastier by The Aristocrat's special Java sauce. Served with Java rice and native atsara.*

Even if there was little money to go around the Reyes household, Aling Asiang always made sure that the needs of the children were met - clothing, education, and, of course, great food. But Aling Asiang's soft side was balanced by the disciplinarian in her. Aling Asiang inculcated into her children the dignity of work and the value of pulling together for household chores.

The eldest polished their narra floor to a mirror-like gleam before going out to play. Another one scrubbed the bathrooms, and the girls helped in the kitchen. Every Reyes child was an expert in peeling onions and mashing garlic - the prerequisites to most delicious native dishes - before they grew tall enough to touch their chins on the dinner table.

Paydays were special for the Reyes children because Alex would treat the family to a special meal in one of the panciterias in Chinatown. During these eat-outs, Aling Asiang, ever the cooking genius, would do a running commentary on which dishes she gave a passing grade and which ones failed to meet her exacting standards plus what ingredients should have been added.

Still, there was the problem of supporting the needs of a growing brood with an honest civil servant's salary. Thus, On the matrimonial bed one night, Aling Asiang broached the idea of food for sale to generate additional income. Although the family kitty was much depleted from expenses for their new house, Alex obliged and coughed up the necessary capital. He would also serve as somewhat of a publicist for the restaurant by bringing in his friends from government and other social circles.

Thus, with neither visions of grandeur nor much fanfare, Aling Asiang opened a kiosk - the 'Lapu-Lapu", a name that honors the first Filipino hero with a culinary connotation. The Lapu-Lapu aimed to entice the hundreds of colegialas from St. Theresa's College just across their newly built home at Marquez de Comillas (now Romualdez St.) which was then a rather fashionable residential district of the city.

### Aling Asiang's Magic Wand and Enchanted Carriage

The colegialas of St. Theresa's immedi-

### First Aristocrat Restaurant

*The Aristocrat* was built on three tenets - *"Masarap, malinis, at mura"*. It was a place oriented to the masses with small incomes and large appetites. Aling Asiang elevated her rolling canteen into a bonafide restaurant by striking a deal with the landowners to put up *The Aristocrat* at the same street corner where the rolling store had faithfully served and satisfied thousands of customers. As early as the 1950's *The Aristocrat* had a ceaseless stream of customers which made Aling Asiang decide to go for 24-hour operations.

Self Service
"TURO-TURO"

### The First Microwave Oven

*The Aristocrat* was [illegible] first restaurant to use a microwave oven for commercial purposes. Aling Asiang, though a plain housewife, not only had a nose for business but also strategic moves that would bring in business.

As early as the 60's, Aling Asiang understood that using modern technology in the food service industry not only positioned *The Aristocrat* as a progressive food establishment but also had concrete benefits in speedier service.

ately took a liking to the specialties of the Lapu-Lapu - dinuguan at puto, arroz caldo, pancit luglug, banana fritters (now known as turon) and lumpiang ubod. Word spread far, wide, and fast about Aling Asiang's delicacies and soon, even Alex's prominent friends in the legal profession and government service became faithful customers of the small restaurant.

As it turns out, a ladle in the hands of Aling Asiang was as good as any magic wand to save the day. But somewhere in the future, there still lies an enchanted carriage in waiting.

Every Sunday morning, Aling Asiang prepared a car load of food for their family's weekly Luneta excursion. Even for such outings, Aling Asiang would never settle for ordinary sandwiches made with ham and cheese. She would put a distinct native twist to the American favorite by using adobo, or fried fish fillet as filling. This was complemented by vessels of pancit, dinuguan, kare-kare and rice wrapped in banana leaves good for twice the number of people in the family.

*Pancit Canton - Egg noodles generously garnished with a stir-fried mix of meat, seafood, and vegetables.*

***The first Aristocrat was a battered Ford that was converted into a rolling canteen at the cost of seventy pesos. The windows were opened to give customers an inside peek on how their food was being prepared. On one July fourth celebration, The Aristocrat sold 8,000 adobo sandwiches at 20 centavos each.***

Luneta during Sunday afternoons was the melting pot for everybody who was anybody. As such, the Reyes children would often invite their classmates to eat with them. Pretty soon, these classmates will make it a point to look for the Reyeses at Luneta because, after all, Aling Asiang's "pinoy" sandwiches was a winner over cold hotdogs in buns peddled by rolling vendors in the area.

On one particular Sunday excursion, Aling Asiang figured that perhaps there was future in putting up a rolling store to compete with those already in Luneta.

Fidel Reyes (not related to the family of Alex and Asiang), a suitor of the eldest daughter Teresita, perhaps in an attempt to gain favor with his future in-laws, offered his battered Ford which would be converted into a rolling canteen at a cost of seventy pesos.

### Turning Every Fare Into Food Fit For Royalty

The enchanted carriage was ready and it was to be parked along Luneta. Now, if only it had a name.

Originally, the idea was to name the store "Andy's" after the eldest Reyes son. Andy, however, did not relish the idea of attaching his name to the family rolling store. Digging into her deep sense of irony, Aling Asiang named their mobile canteen "The Aristocrat" - a place oriented to Filipino families with small incomes and large appetites.

The name "The Aristocrat" would turn out to be very well suited to what Aling Asiang was doing - using the freshest premium ingredients to turn ordinary Filipino food into culinary fare so good that it is fit for royalty.

Whenever Aling Asiang cooked food for customers, she would put in the same love and care as though she were cooking for her own children. In their poorer days, Aling Asiang remembered how food was an integral part of family gatherings. Even in the simplicity of a breakfast of pandesal with butter or a merienda of kakanin, the Reyeses gathered and were together physically and in spirit. This is why The Aristocrat has always been oriented to the family.

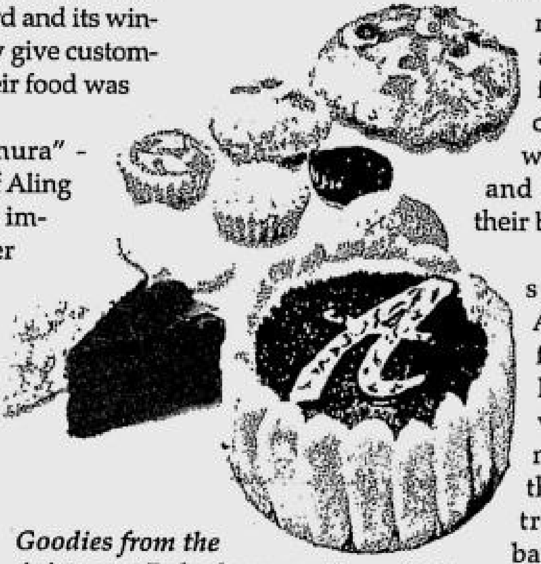
*Halo-Halo - A chilly glass chalice of assorted sweetened beans, fruits, purple yam, and custard packed with shaved ice and topped with ice cream.*

More than just selling tasty creations, The Aristocrat was a place where the common folk could expect to get good service and hefty portions at reasonable prices. Eventually, The Aristocrat would also give their mass-based clientele a taste of continental and Chinese cuisine which used to be available only in pricey hotels.

A sign that read "The Aristocrat" was mounted on the salvaged Ford and its windows were opened to literally give customers an inside peek on how their food was being prepared.

"Masarap, malinis, at mura" - these were the three tenets of Aling Asiang which she dutifully impressed upon her food server at The Aristocrat who was trained to prepare native sandwiches without touching any of the ingredients by hand.

Thus, the deft manipulation of knife and fork to produce adobo and fish fillet sandwiches became an attraction unto itself alongside Aling Asiang's signature dinuguan at puto, lumpia, pancit palabok, and ginataan on Sundays. Giving equal emphasis to both quality and variety, Aling Asiang produced two kinds of lumpia - one made from ubod, and the other from water chestnut.



*Goodies from the Aristocrat Bakeshops are the perfect complement to an Aristocrat meal.*

No one has ever bothered to verify whether its was the taste or the showmanship that caused the long endless queues. On one July fourth celebration, The Aristocrat sold 8,000 adobo sandwiches at a cost of 20 centavos each.

reasons, the rolling store was moved beneath the shade of a tree at the corner of Dewey Blvd. (now known as Roxas Blvd.) and San Andres St. Eventually, Aling Asiang looked at elevating her rolling canteen into a bonafide restaurant and struck up a deal with the landowners to put up The Aristocrat at the same street corner where they have faithfully served and satisfied thousands of customers.

By then, Aling Asiang already had a complete cast of recipes so delicious they were addicting. Complementing her winning menu was her winsome public relations skills. After supervising the cooking, she would be found attending to customers and closely taking note of their feedback. Lucky customers could get a free taste of Aling Asiang's creations whenever she was trying to develop a new dish.

When the Philippines was dragged into World War II, The Aristocrat was constantly packed with American soldiers. After the retreat of American forces, the crowd at The Aristocrat was replaced by Japanese army officers and war correspondents who were cordial and dutifully paid their bills.

The winning streak of The Aristocrat before, during, and long after the war is a testament to the fact that good food transcends the barriers of social class and even nationality. In the decades leading up to the new millennium, The Aristocrat has not only survived but even flourished and expanded to include a bakeshop, the Aristomart 24-hour convenience store, and a delivery service.

Today, the fairy tale continues as The Aristocrat opens its newest branch along Jupiter Street, spreading the gospel of great-tasting and affordable Filipino food which began in Manila to the Makati working crowd. While Alex and Aling Asiang have long left this world to live happily ever after in the next, the Reyeses have preserved the philosophy of Aling Asiang that eating together is an important family bonding activity that forms happy memories for the young ones and brings back the good old times for the young once.

Without a doubt, what continuously brings families as well as young men and women to The Aristocrat is the longing for a home-cooked meal that only a loving mother could make.

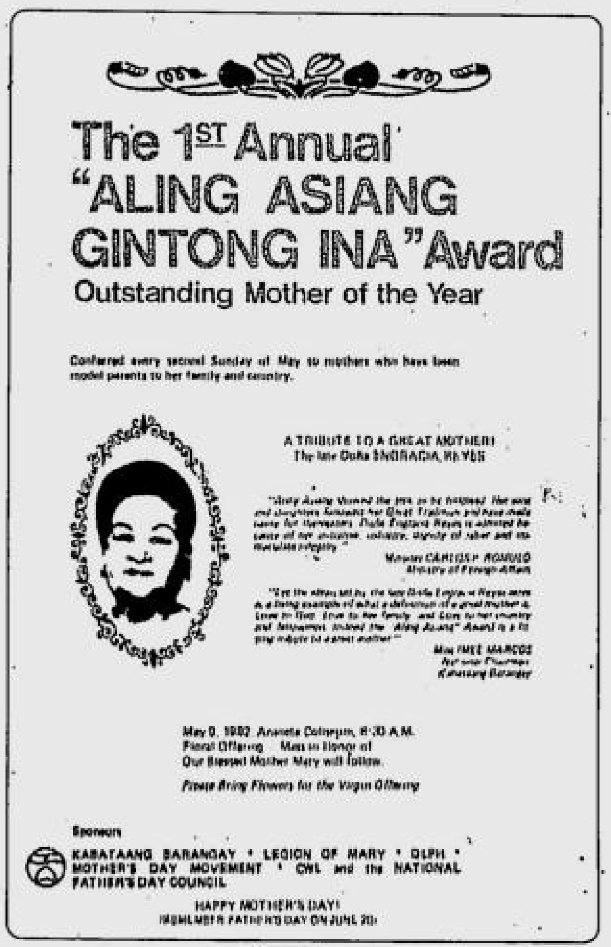
Aling Asiang did more than just create an icon in the food industry. She has left us all with a modern day fairy tale of a woman who believed that good food could do magical wonders beyond imagination.

SINCE 1936
the Aristocrat
RESTAURANT

**Aristocrat Makati**

*The Aristocrat* opens its Jupiter branch spreading the gospel of good food at reasonable prices to embrace the working crowd of the Makati Central Business District.

Though Aling Asiang has long since passed away, the Reyeses have been careful to preserve her legacy of treating Aristocrat clients to ordinary home-cooked food made to taste great with the finest ingredients in the hands of a loving mother. For many generations to come, *The Aristocrat* will continue to be a place of happy family memories just the way Aling Asiang wanted it right from the very start.



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REMEMBER FATHER'S DAY ON JUNE 20!

**Aling Asiang Gintong Ina Award**

On May 9, 1982, the Kabataang Baranggay, Legion of Mary, Mother's Day Movement, and other non-government organizations collaborated in a search for the outstanding Filipino mothers who will be given recognition during the "1st Annual Aling Asiang Gintong Ina Award".

The prestigious award-giving body saw Aling Asiang, who passed away in 1975, as the model of motherhood because of her matriarchal role within the Reyes household as well as her success in business, a field which was then believed to be best left to men.

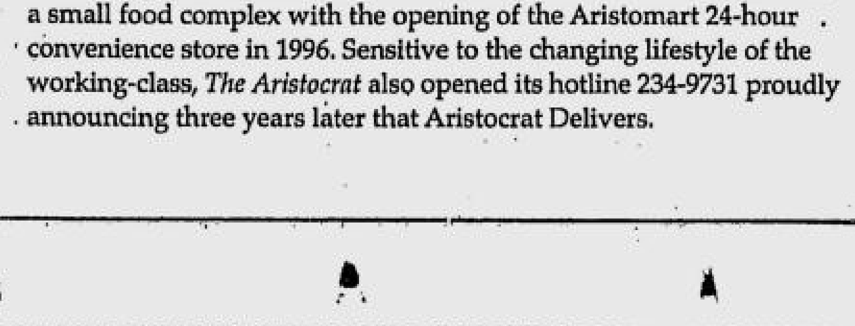
The Aristocrat

**Aristocrat in the 70's**

It was in the 70's that *The Aristocrat* solidified its undisputed claim as the most popular restaurant in the country. Seeing yet more opportunity in this popularity, the Reyeses opened a bakeshop in 1976 which would duplicate the success of the restaurant.

The underlying reason for the growing patronage of *The Aristocrat* was Aling Asiang's philosophy of using the freshest premium ingredients to turn ordinary Filipino food into culinary fare that tastes so good it is fit for royalty.

*The Aristocrat* gave the common folk good service and hefty, tasty food portions at reasonable prices. The restaurant would eventually give its mass-based clientele a taste of continental and Chinese cuisine which used to be available only in pricey hotels.



**Aristocrat Manila**

The rolling store of olden days which turned into a restaurant is now a small food complex with the opening of the Aristomart 24-hour convenience store in 1996. Sensitive to the changing lifestyle of the working-class, *The Aristocrat* also opened its hotline 234-9731 proudly announcing three years later that Aristocrat Delivers.

**VIVACITY PERSONIFIED.** Malou Fernandez always has the last laugh.

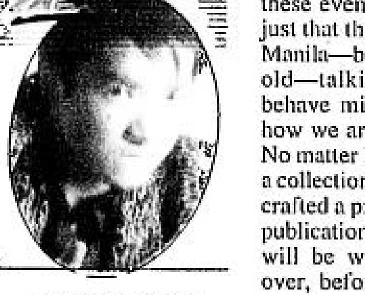
**LOOK FROM DEEP WITHIN.** For Leica Carpo, God is in the details.

**MAD AS HELL.** Carlos Agassi rages within.

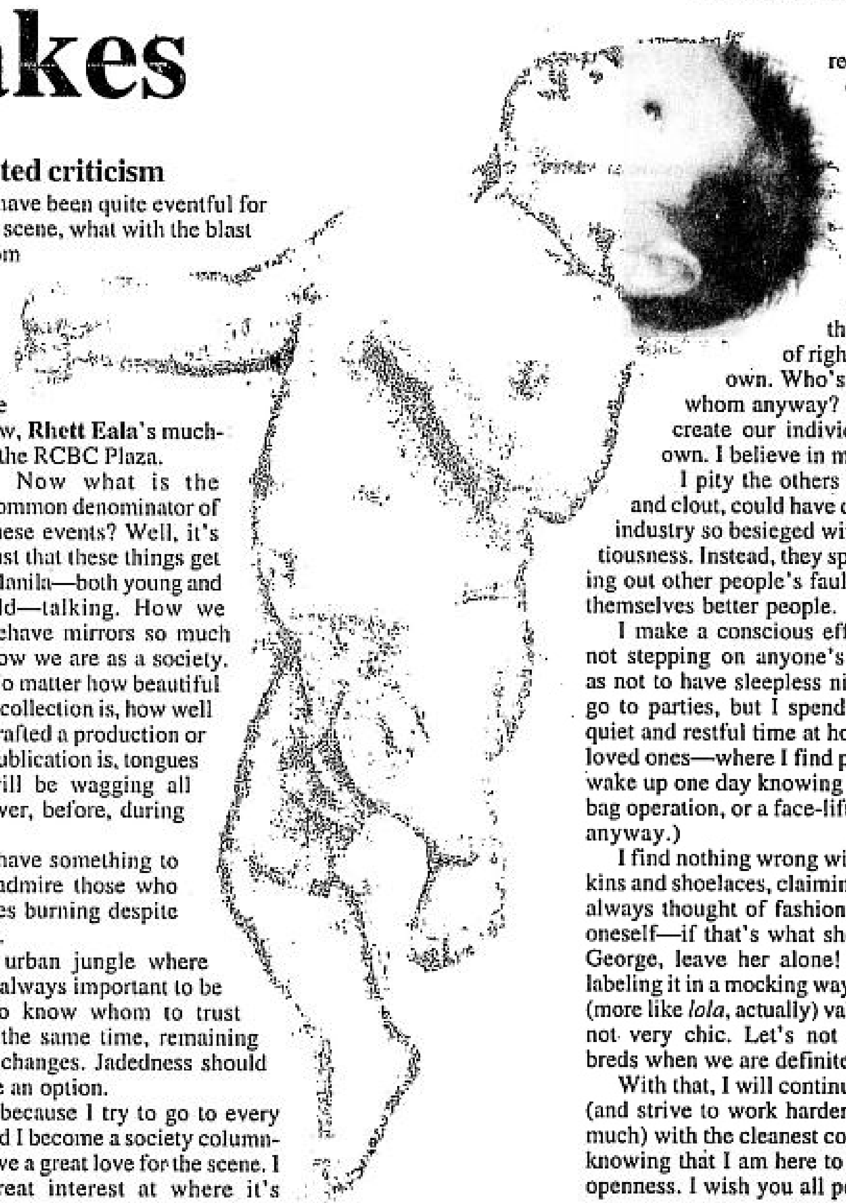
**DEFECT-FREE.** Cecille Zamora in a state of serenity

**SOCIETY AS THEATER.** Ariel Lozada sees the truth amid the haze.

# Inspiring collaboration—and sleazy snakes


Tim Yap

**OKAY, another article on the much talked about Patrick Rosas-Jun de Leon book. I wasn't able to attend this event since I was in Europe the past few weeks, but seeing the book, I realize this is what happens when collaboration between artists according one another mutual respect and admiration takes place. They inspire one another and in turn, the product of their collaboration inspires others. (This page features my favorite snapshots.)**



## Misdirected criticism

The past few weeks have been quite eventful for the lifestyle and fashion scene, what with the blast by blast happenings from **Rajo Laurel**'s controversial gala show to **Inno Sotto**'s "Red Carpet." Last night, the Mega Fashion Awards took center stage at the NBC Tent, and tomorrow, **Rhett Eala**'s much-awaited gala unfolds at the RCBC Plaza.

Now what is the common denominator of these events? Well, it's just that these things get Manila—both young and old—talking. How we behave mirrors so much how we are as a society. No matter how beautiful a collection is, how well crafted a production or publication is, tongues will be wagging all over, before, during or after a show.

People will always have something to say about anything. I admire those who persist to keep their fires burning despite all the odds facing them.

To survive in this urban jungle where snakes abound, it is always important to be prepared, to know whom to trust while at the same time, remaining open to changes. Jadedness should never be an option.

Not because I try to go to every party did I become a society columnist. I have a great love for the scene. I take great interest at where it's headed. Other people misinterpret my motives, but I think it's just plain old insecurity, mismatched wavelengths, or simply old age.

While it is true that I started out in this industry by knowing a number of people, they were not the reason I became a writer. Other people know more people than I do. The difference is I try my best to preserve my friendships, knowing that they are the best treasures anyone can have.

I work hard at what I do, from writing and running to the photo shop to get my pictures, going to the office to personally supervise the layout of my page, staying up really late until I see the finished product—I get a high out of it. It may be trash to others, but it is pure gold to me.

For my parties, I am there from the conceptualization to the time the janitor sweeps the last particle of dust off the floor. To me, being an "eventologist" is not just a business, it is a passion—the same passion a painter gives when he does his *obra maestra*, or when a designer presents his latest collection. So I take great offense at misdirected criticism from someone whom I have never worked with, or who has not seen me work.

## Negative prone

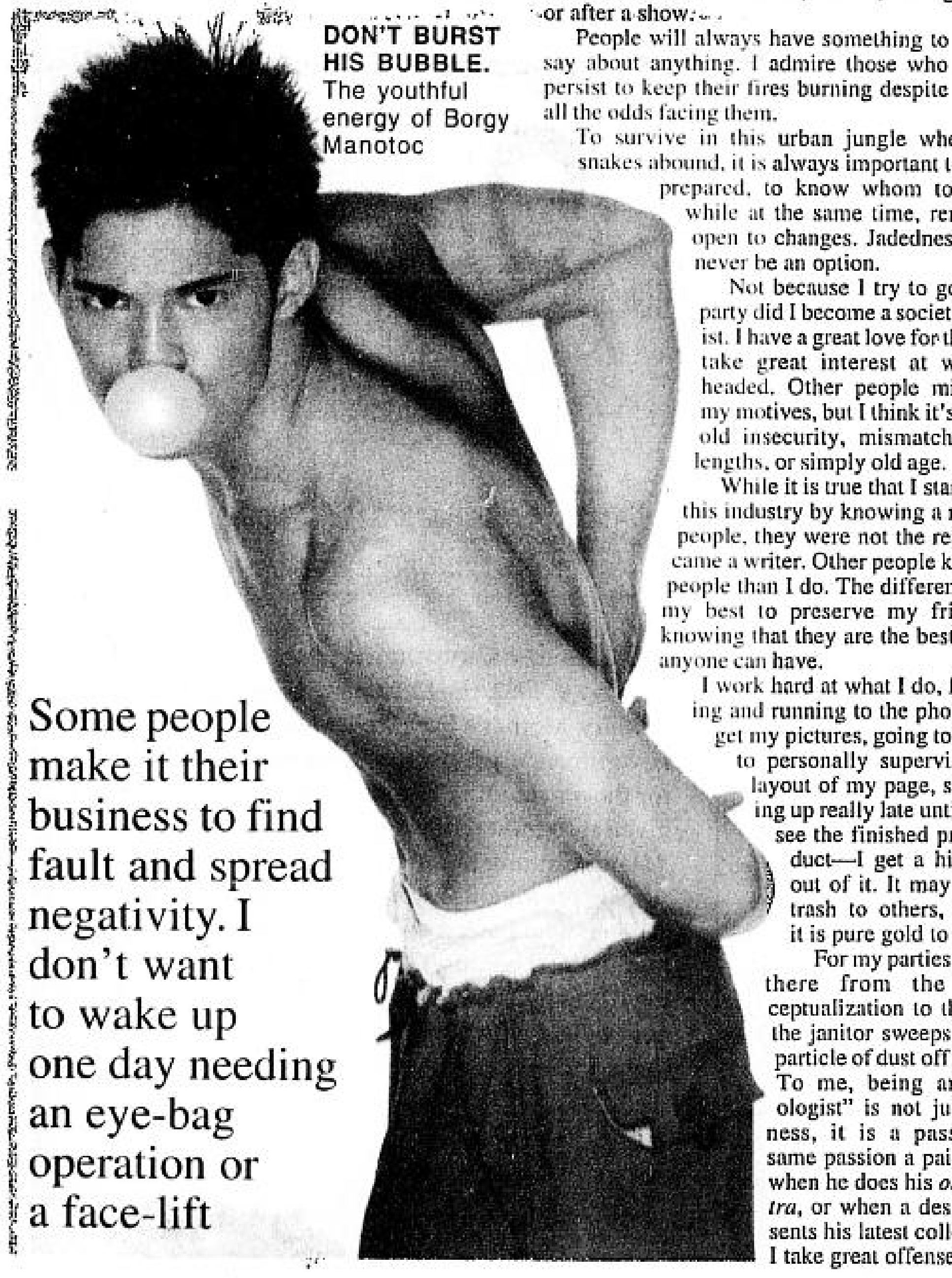
The pie is huge for everyone to partake of. No one can lay sole claim to any particular piece of it, for it is unlike land that you have to have a deed of rights to be able to call it your own. Who's trying to steal what from whom anyway? I think we are put here to create our individual niches—to each his own. I believe in mutual respect and civility.

I pity the others who, given their position and clout, could have done so much in uniting an industry so besieged with intrigue and pretentiousness. Instead, they spread negativity, pointing out other people's faults, rather than making themselves better people.

I make a conscious effort at not stepping on anyone's toes, so as not to have sleepless nights. I may go to parties, but I spend quite a lot of quiet and restful time at home, too, with my loved ones—where I find peace. I don't want to wake up one day knowing I have to have an eyebag operation, or a face-lift at that. (Well, not yet, anyway.)

I find nothing wrong with women wearing napkins and shoelaces, claiming it to be fashion. I have always thought of fashion as a way of expressing oneself—if that's what she feels like wearing, by George, leave her alone! Pointing that out and labeling it in a mocking way reeks of stiff *matrona* (more like *lola*, actually) values and upbringing—not very chic. Let's not behave like convent breds when we are definitely not.

With that, I will continue to do what I do best (and strive to work harder at it, thank you very much) with the cleanest conscience in the world, knowing that I am here to spread positivity and openness. I wish you all peace.


**DON'T BURST HIS BUBBLE.** The youthful energy of Borgy Manotoc

Some people make it their business to find fault and spread negativity. I don't want to wake up one day needing an eye-bag operation or a face-lift

**TRUE TO YOUR ROOTS.** Isabel Roces discovers herself.

**PURE MAGIC.** Michele Sison weaves her spell.

**FILIPINO SUPERMODEL KNOWN TONIGHT**

The winner in this year's search for the Philippine representative to the Supermodel contest will be known this evening in a show at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Audie Espino, Supermodel Philippines executive producer, and his brother, producer-director Joey, have been collaborating with Eileen and Jerry Ford (center) founders of the Supermodel contest. The Philippine national winner will participate in the final event in Miami, Florida.

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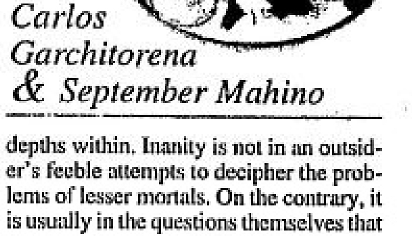
# Why is everyone preoccupied with relationship problems?


*Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino*

**DEAR Sep and Carlos,**

**Why is it that many people lack intuition and intelligence when they give advice? I often hear people say, "If you love him, then go for it." They don't even understand the concept of love. Some even say, "Give him another chance," when the guy cheated on the girl for the nth time. And why is everyone's problem about love? Doesn't anyone worry about money, career, table manners, redemption, the implications of euthanasia or youth in Asia? It's not really a personal problem but a social commentary.**

**HERBALIZER**

The usual problem when you ask other people for advice is that they don't really get the whole picture. Sure, they have good intentions in trying to help you but sometimes they only listen to what they want to hear. It's not really selfishness on their part but more of a difference in perspectives that make them give "bad" pieces of advise. What is important to one person, such as self-preservation, may not be so to another, who believes that love is about sticking it out with a partner and persevering through relationship problems like infidelity and drug use.

We could blame the media for exploiting society's predisposition to believe in all things good about love but we should also take note that people aren't dummies that react and process information the same way. We educate ourselves about love and such by taking in what we see, hear and feel but we don't always look at and listen to the same thing. It would then be unfair to call someone else stupid or gullible just because he doesn't look at things the same way that you do.

As for the universal preoccupation about love, I think it's because establishing and maintaining relationships are important to everyone. Romantic love and friendship were my first steps, outside of my family, into being in contact with humanity (pardon me for a lack of a better word) and I don't think I can truly say that I've mastered it already. To tell the truth, I don't think anyone has. Money, career, table manners and euthanasia are important secondary baggage that we also deal with when we relate to other people but we shouldn't begrudge other people who prefer to worry about basic things such as love.

**SEP**

If I were to jump the gun I would say outright that the main problem that plagues people nowadays wouldn't be the answers to boring questions on relationships that more often than not beg the obvious. As Miranda found out in the second to the last episode of "Sex & The City," only she and her ex-boyfriend can really say what happened between them. There are no final answers to any personal questions, except those that are reached from the depths within. Inanity is not in an outsider's feeble attempts to decipher the problems of lesser mortals. On the contrary, it is usually in the questions themselves that there are fatal flaws. Why people bother asking questions that cannot be answered at a glance is the pit of despair and loss. Everyone has his own take on life and the slice of personality that each imbibes is the rose-colored, often cracked lens through which they view life.

A current thesis statement of music, cinema and life is "Moulin Rouge" according to the Book of Michi: All situations in life and love can be expressed through pop music. That is, "Sound of Music," "Your Song," "Like a Virgin," etc. But here's the thing: In each situation in love and in life, there can be only one song, unique and true in its purest form. That is the only real expression and analysis that is valid. All else, concerning pregnancy, abuse and scorn can easily be fathomed by the simplest mind. It is only our self-doubt, immersed in our preset cognition of social imitation, that we feel the answers are outside of ourselves. Otherwise, do that which is akin to you, by God, and I will too. If you wish to join the circus, whether it be the ring of the corporate world, government, entertainment or pure artistry, do so.

We had one chap named Alex who seemed jaded, disillusioned in the baccalaureate dream. I was working him, now that I remember. I was tempting him into the clutches of Bohemianism, freedom, truth and other things. I was goading him into terminating the ironed, pressed and cuff-linked, giving them their walking papers. I double-dared him to give up the corporate stampede. I was preaching that he go against the flow and listen to the silence speaking.

He wrote months later, and not only did he knife me in the heart by writing that he had joined a bank, but by succumbing to the heady scent of a female at the watering hole dispenser; he gave me a swift kick in the arse. They were probably trading jokes during breaks, rugging on each other's Frothé and exchanging ringtones. That must've been a sweet sight, arguing over which flavor of cup noodles was better, coy in saying, "lips that touched that flavor will never touch mine." "Yuck, it's *sobra*!" But that's just as I see it.

**CALOY**

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

# What dreams foretell

BY GILES IVAN A. AQUINO

Dreams are among nature's miracles, not just the results of a mind wandering in sleep

OUR dreams offer us different versions of who we are and what we are afraid to be in real life—a movie that shifts from one scene to another. Our dreams become the venue for the things we miss doing or those we have never done. They have been our sources of short-term happiness.

Have you ever wished to have not awakened from sleep because your significant other is about to give you a torrid kiss? Or how disappointed you get that just when you are about to tell her/him how you really feel, you fall to the floor head first?

Every dream allows for many interpretations but sometimes it runs parallel with our conscious decisions and actions. That is why it is said that dreams are among nature's miracles, not just the results of a mind wandering in sleep.

Tony Crisp, author of the Dream Dictionary, an A to Z guide to understanding the conscious mind, said a dream could be the manifestation of an illness long before it becomes evident. It could also be a way of balancing physiological and psychological activities.

A dream is an enormously original source of insight and information. It taps into our memory, our experience and our mental functions of scanning information and forming new ideas. Humans often can predict the future, not because of a psychic ability, but based on information gathered about the present and illustrated in dreams. Thus, dream becomes, more or less, a means of solving problems, not only in our personal life, but also in relationships and work.

With dreams, we create a whole new world of experience. Either we take charge of this creativity and ride with it or be at its mercy.

Here are some people who have become either the master or slaves of their very own dreams.

I had this dream about my ex-girlfriend. She was still my girlfriend at the time. In my dream, I was trying to reach out to her, but I couldn't grab her hands. I became really bothered by that so I called her and asked if everything was fine with her. During those days we were together, she seemed to keep bringing up the matter of separation. She eventually left for the United States. That was the time I realized what the dream tried to tell me.—**Joemel Asacta**

During my first year in college, I always dreamed of enjoying a beach in Boracay and there was always this peculiar tree on the shore. *Hindi puwedeng wala 'yon pag nananaginip ako* about Boracay. It was tall and its branches drooped. It looked like a mango tree, but it was really weird. *Basta kakaiba yung puno.* Last summer, in my fourth year, I finally had a chance to visit Boracay for the first time and, to my surprise, I saw the tree standing in front of me—the same tree with brown twigs and an eerie bark.—**Danzel Cruz**

I am a music student so, at the very least, I want to have a piano. I kept dreaming about it and, in my dreams, I am always playing the instrument. Now, I am really happy to say that I play the piano for real.—**Shiayenne Dimaguila**

Whenever I think of this dream, I always get goosebumps. In the dream, I was in a dark room. Two doors were marked 1 and 2. Blood flowed from the floor of door number 1 while a beam of light showed from the other. Suddenly, I heard my alarm ring. I promptly headed for the shower as we had to go north that day for outreach work. I waited for the minibuses that would take us to our destination. Call me paranoid but I opted not to take the bus with the number 1 on its dashboard and got into the second, instead. We were just minutes away from our destination when the first bus had an accident. I could never forget that.—**Pee Wee Mangubat**

Teeth. That was the theme of my dream. All of my teeth fell off. Being superstitious (the loss of teeth is supposed to be an omen of someone's death), I looked for something alive to bite into and what I found was a guava tree. I bit the tree in an attempt to avert the loss of a relative. The next day my grandma's guava tree was dead. Coincidence? Who knows?—**Jason Jay Jose**

I was on a cliff, the sun was setting and below was a field full of red roses. My dream suggested a place where I longed to find serenity. Going back to my hometown, a childhood friend took me to this place where they were all there — the cliff, the roses and the sunset.—**Wilden S. Tamayo**

My dream was kind of related to a quotation. There was a door and a window. The door suddenly shut, but the window was left open. At the time, I was trying to decide if it was time to part from my mate. When I remembered my dream, I made up my mind to end the relationship. Weeks after, a new person came along. I smiled because I knew then my dreams could be really helpful.—**John Alvin Tan**

*E-mail the author at giaquino@edsamail.com.ph*

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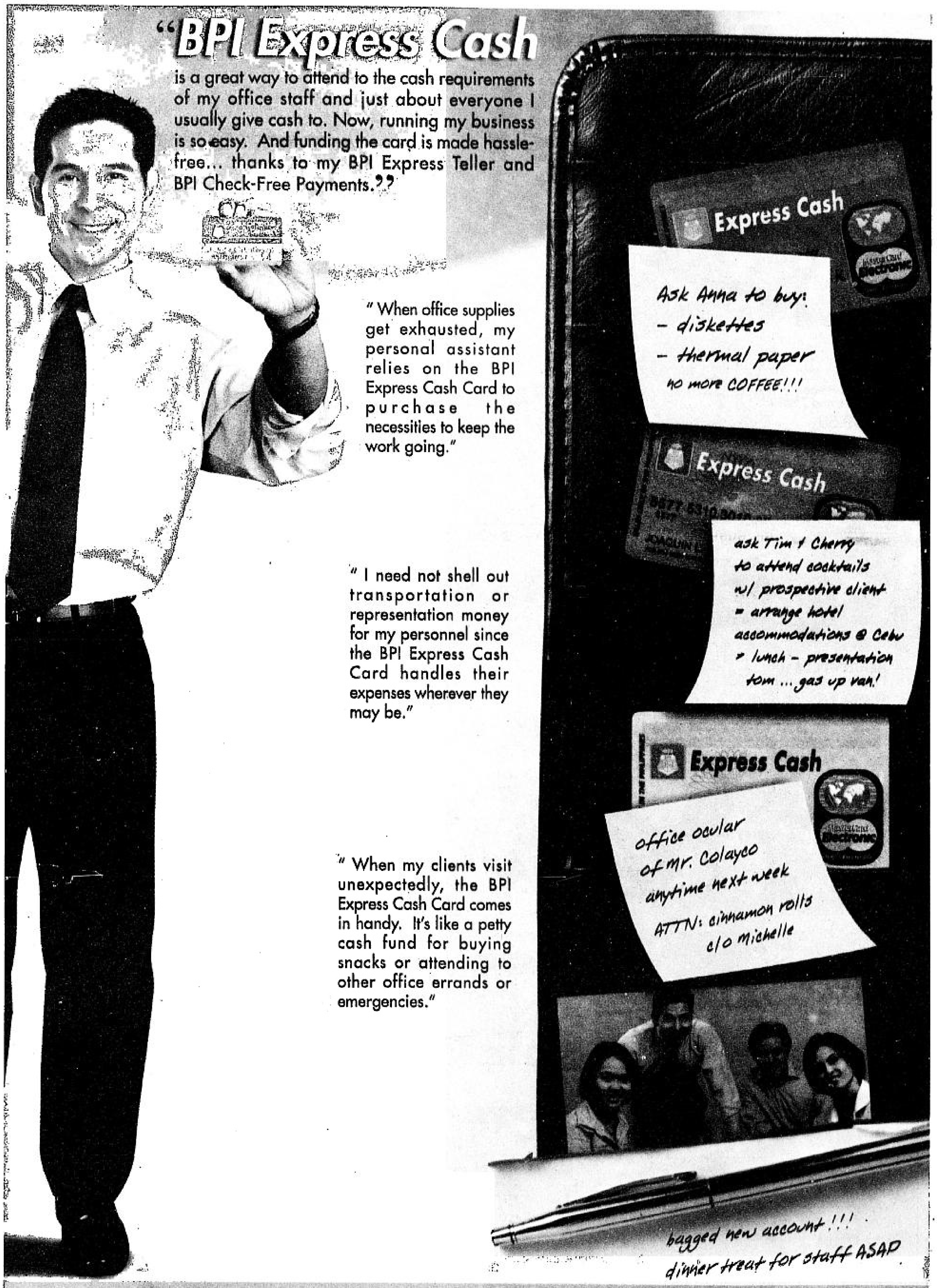

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# The meaning of dreams

By Mariless V. Villamar
*2bU! Correspondent*

SOMETIMES, we have dreams that leave a lasting impression which we remember every detail long after we have awakened. Then there are dreams whose details we forget but they leave a strong impact on us. I can't describe such frustration of trying to remember a particular dream, much like trying to recall the tune of a song. But some dreams are so common that the probability of a friend dreaming the same thing is very high. These "common dreams" range from running naked in a mall to tooth extraction. Here are some of those common dreams and their meanings.

- **Naked in public**—the most exciting of dreams. This reflects one's unpreparedness or fear of exposure. If the venue is a school or office, it signifies insecurity whether in your professional or personal abilities. More often than not, the people in your dream are indifferent to your nakedness. This means that you are overly concerned about the insecurity or doubts that you are feeling.
- **Falling**—We usually have "falling" dreams just as we are drifting off to sleep, like falling off a bed or tripping on the stairs. The funny thing is, just as we are about to hit the ground, we suddenly wake up. These dreams are not really deemed significant psychologically unless they are recurring. The basic explanation for "falling" dreams is that our sense of balance switches from the real world to the dream world.
- **Teeth falling out**—this reflects insecurities about one's appearance. But if you are someone who has undergone a lot of dental work, these dreams can also signify apprehensions about such problems.
- **Your own funeral**—this is the creepiest, which most likely means that you are experiencing a heightened awareness of your own mortality. This is brought about by a movie that evokes such feelings or a death in the family.
- **Running**—If the context of this dream focuses on the dreamer running in a track field and not merely running from someone or something, then the meaning is entirely different. Running from a person only means shunning a problem or situation in real life. But if you aspire to become an athlete, then this symbolizes feelings of confidence and ability.
- **Winning the lottery**—this usually occurs when we find ourselves in a financial fix. An example is when you've been dreaming for days of purchasing a pricey pair of caramel suede pointed toe mules but you've already exceeded your budget for the month.
- **Steamy affairs**—Too many dreams of trysts with the gardener (à la Charlotte of "Sex & the City") only means that subconsciously you want to have an affair with somebody else. This usually comes about with those who are not happy with their partners. Your dreams may be urging you to think about what you really want in a partner.
- **Surrounded by snakes**—Snakes are viewed as symbols of change, in addition to being a representation of sexual energy. They are considered symbols of change because they shed their skin. In the earlier times, snakes were considered phallic in nature and represented the penis. Naturally, in a dream, you avoid such creatures, which means that you are trying to avoid change.

No single interpretation can be applied to every type of dream. Be aware of the nuances or the context in which your dream occurred. These make a lot of difference. More importantly, listen to what your dream is trying to tell you. Dreams are reflections of one's subconscious concerns over situations and feelings at the moment.

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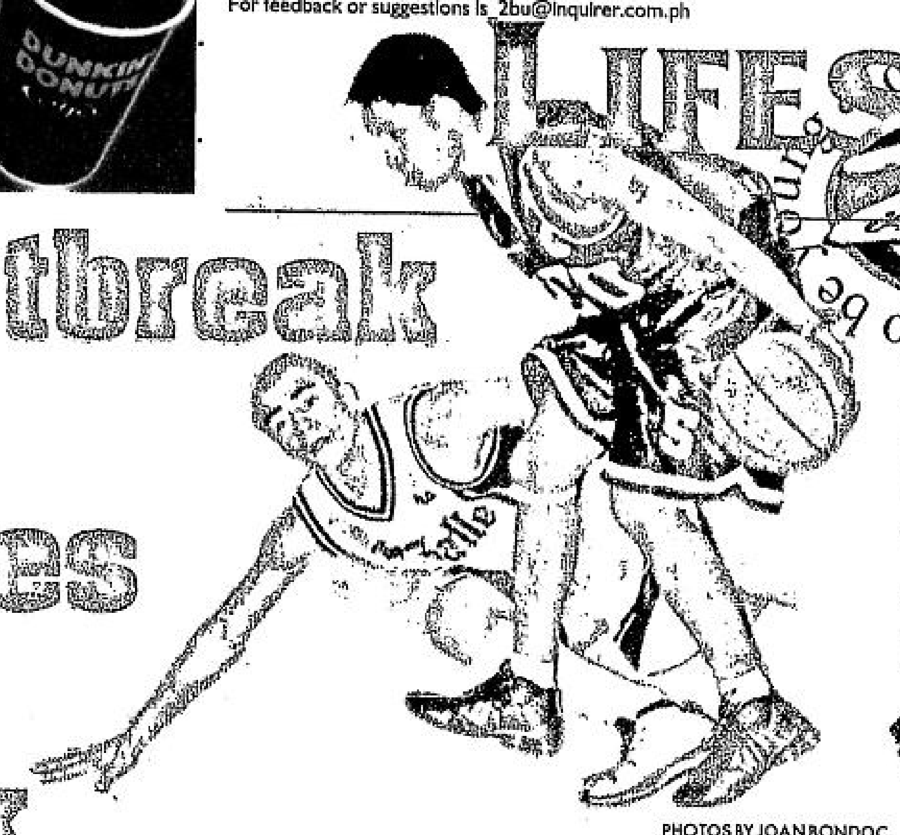
# Heartbreak kid makes his Mark


PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Mark Cardona breezed through the UAAP scandal unscathed. He had been through worse struggles in his life

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By Jules Alcantara

**NOT by a long shot.**

This is what anyone would probably say if asked if he could manage to shoot the ball from the opponent's foul line or overcome all the obstacles that Mark Cardona, this year's rookie sensation in the seniors basketball of the 64th UAAP, faced.

Billed Captain Hook in the UAAP for his famous semi-hook shot, Mac is the youngest in a brood of five. He has two half-siblings in his mother's side. Although he now lives in the De La Salle University (DLSU) dormitory, he still visits his relatives and childhood friends in Boni, Mandaluyong.

His mother left him when he was 3 to work as a domestic helper in Greece. Things did not work out well for his mother. "*Hindi naging maganda ang trato sa kanya. Buti na lang may naging kaibigan siya na nagtatrabaho sa barko papuntang* United States. *Naawa sa kanya* so *dinala siya sa* California," he says. His mother became a "TNT" (illegal alien) and was only able to come home to see him in 1994. For eight years, Mac had to contend with moving from one relative to another. "*Ang dami ko nang tinirahan. Sa* Cardona, Rizal, *tumira din ako doon. Kung kani-kanino ako nakitira. Para nga akong naging utusan. Siyempre nakikitira ako kaya tumutulong-tulong ako*," he wistfully recalls.

His mother could not regularly send him support since she herself was struggling in the US. "*Pinapadalhan ako paminsan-minsan tulad kapag pasko*," he says. His grandmother sometimes had to borrow money for his *baon* or he himself had to find ways to fend for himself. "*'Pag may pagkain sa bahay eh di kumakain ako*."

He did a lot of odd jobs—he looked for old bottles and plastics and sold cigarettes to earn extra income for himself and his relatives. "*Nagbote-dyaryo ako*," he narrates with pride.

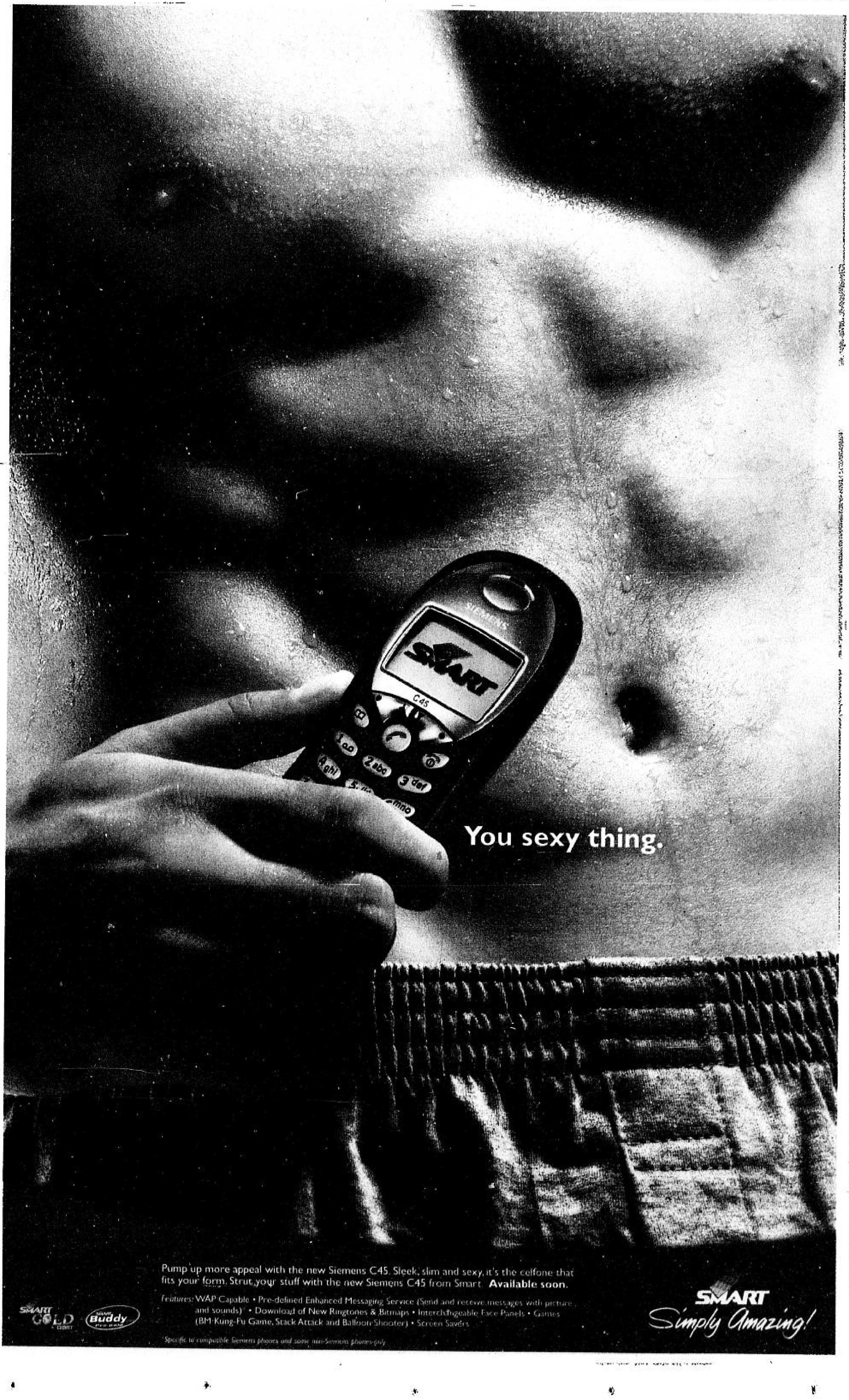
When he joined his mother and stepfather (who, by the way, Mac only has good words for) in Carson City, he worked as a cashier in Jack in the Box and Seafood City to earn extra money. "*Bata pa lang ako natuto na ako dumiskarte sa buhay—marunong na akong gumawa ng pera*."

## Alone

It was difficult growing up without his mother or father by his side. There were moments where he felt alone and abandoned. "Feeling *ko parang wala akong magulang*." His voice breaks when he says that there were times when he felt really abandoned especially "*pag napapagalitan or kapag nabubugbog. Pag nakikita nila ako ngayon parang di sila makasalita—parang di nila akalain*," he says bashfully.

Life was difficult for the whole brood. He could hardly rely on his older siblings to help him out since they themselves had to struggle to survive. Perhaps hardened by the difficulties that he had to go through early on in life, Mac says that he didn't have any fancy childhood dreams of

HEARTBREAK/ p.D2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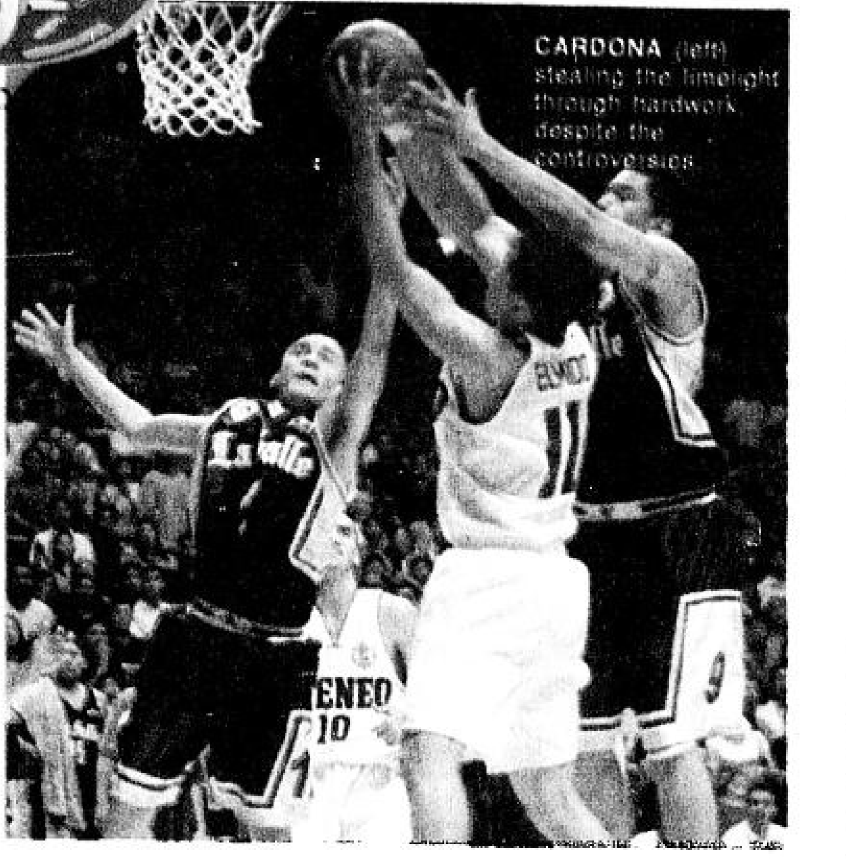
# Heartbreak kid makes his Mark



CARDONA (left) stealing the limelight through hardwork despite the controversies

(From page D1)

becoming a doctor or engineer. "*Pangarap ko lang talaga mabuhay,*" he says.

Despite the hardships, he says he never indulged in drugs or alcohol. "*Mahirap akong maimpluwensiyahan. Kahit ipaputol ko kamay ko ngayon*, never *ako nag*-drugs or *naglasing*."

Basketball became his one and only vice. "*Natuto ako mag*-basketball *sa kalye.*" Former PBA superstar Samboy Lim was his childhood idol.

It could be surmised that he learned his famous semi-hook shot in the streets of Mandaluyong where he grew up and in his scrimmages against seasoned street ball players in Carson.

He never became a varsity player because "*hindi ako natanggap.*" It is indeed a welcome irony that he is now one of the UAAP's leading scorers.

## Elitism

Although he had heard of the controversial rivalry between Ateneo de Manila University and DLSU, he says that, "*pang-mayaman lang kasi 'yun, eh.*" Never in his wildest dreams did he imagine he would ever suit up for the Archers. It was upon the encouragement of the Caviteños in Carson to go back to the Philippines to try out for the DLSU team. Interestingly, Green Arçher Mike Cortez, the league's leading point guard, also came from Carson. Mac decided to come back from the US to pursue his dream of getting a degree and play ball at the same time. "*Gusto ko talagang makatapos, kasi ang mga magulang ko 'di nakatapos ng pag-aaral,*" he explains.

By now, everyone knows of how Franz Pumaren, coach of the Green Archers, has called this walk-in a "*hulog ng langit.*" And for Mac, Pumaren has been the father figure he has long wished for. It is interesting to listen to Mac talk about Pumaren. "*Lagi akong napapagalitan ni* coach as in *minsan mangiyak-ngiyak na ako,*" he says. Untrained and very much raw, Mac had difficulty adjusting, especially since Pumaren is well known for being a strict and systematic coach.

Mac says that one time, he earned the wrath of his coach when he was caught having a night-out sometime during semis. He was not allowed to practice and was sent home. "*Napaiyak ako nun pero naintindihan ko rin naman pagkatapos,*" he says.

Mac says that he appreciates all the efforts that his coach instilled in him. "*Mas gusto ko na pinapagalitan ako para nabubuhayan ang dugo-dugo ko,*" he says in jest. It is evident that he does not only have respect but also admiration and love for the person that has become his mentor in the game he loves the most. His teammates had to keep reminding him to take heed of Coach Franz's directions and to follow the system. "I needed to learn and step up *kasi sabi nila 'pag 'di ko inayos baka 'di ako paglaruin. Simula nung sinabi nila 'yun, nag-ayos na talaga ako.*"

Mac also gives credit to all his teammates, especially Ren Ren Ritualo, Willy Wilson and Adonis Sta. Maria, who went out of their way to help understand and appreciate the importance of their training.

"Favorite ni Coach *pagalitan yan!*" DLSU's ball captain Ritualo exclaims with a laugh when asked to talk about Mac. "He's very raw and *gigil*. And you know, that's what makes him a great player," the most loved Archer adds.

## Probe

The probe (or as they term it, board inquiry) on his documents made Mac fodder for the headlines for several weeks, but evidently, this did not in any way hinder him from scoring double digits in most of the DLSU games.

It is short of amazing that this spirited small forward does not harbor any resentment toward the UAAP board, specifically board president Anton Montinola. "*Naiintindihan ko naman sila, eh. 'Di naman ako apekatado or nainis. Wala akong galit sa kanya. Kinakamayan naman niya ako pag nakikita niya ako,*" he says sincerely.

News of the controversy greeted him before their game against National University in the second round. He admits to crying after the game (which they won). "*Sumama ang loob ko kasi parang 'di lang ako dina*-down *nila, pati* team *ko, pati* La Salle!" he says. If anything, the controversy even inspired him to turn in a spectacular performance. "I really just want to prove them wrong. Coach told me to just relax and take it easy. He told me not to think about it. He told me that I am not breaking any rule," he explains.

The eligibility issue was never really, well, resolved. No official word has been given as to the result of the board inquiry. But then again, Cardona was awarded the UAAP Rookie of the Year award, which virtually erased all questions and doubts on the veracity of his documents.

He says that his mother and family are quite proud with what he has achieved. His mother watches his games on The Filipino Channel in the US. Just like any varsity ball player, Mac also dreams of becoming a PBA player—if only to help his relatives "*para makaahon naman sa kahirapan. 'Yung mga dating umaapi* or *nagda*-down *sa akin nung bata ako*, proud *na sila sa akin. Wala naman akong sama ng loob sa kanila na kasi tapos na 'yun, eh,*" he says, his eyes getting misty. It would have been Mac's dream to see his mother cheering him in the sidelines especially in the championship. But this will have to wait since his mother postponed the trip due to the World Trade Center tragedy. "*Sana* next year," he wishes out loud.

It was indeed poetic justice, as some quarters claim, that the Green Archers capped this season with a well-deserved championship crown after a season, which Pumaren best described as "stormy." The season has been one big uphill climb, especially for Mac, who was not only hit by controversies, but also with the mysterious flu bug and the dengue virus down the homestretch of the season. In fact, if not for his obstinacy, he would not have played in the last game. From Makati Medical Center, he went straight to the Big Dome to meet his date with destiny.

Now that the season is over, Mac says he will shift his focus to his studies and enjoy life as a student. His mom may be away from him still, but he has found a new family, a support system in the persons of his teammates, Coach Franz and the alumni of DLSU. And maybe now he will have more time for his girlfriend of three months, Daisy Gonzales, who is a DLSU-Dasmariñas student.

And who knows, maybe he can practice some more and beat his own record of making the longest shot made in this year's tournament.

*Email the author at jules_alcantara @pinoycentral.com*

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# Theme park offers Halloween treats

FAR from the traditional celebrations happening elsewhere, Enchanted Kingdom, together with Pepsi, Tropical Ice Sparkling Water and Domino's Pizza, offers a fun-filled and exciting Halloween not only for the young but also for the young at heart.

The Halloween gig kicks off with NU 107's "Party Monsters on the Loose 2" on Oct. 27. A repeat of the successful rock concert held last year, the five-hour show (4 p.m.-9 p.m.) will feature top rock acts Slapshock, Imago, Battery, Brownbeat All-Stars and Sandwich in a highly charged rock fest at the Launch Pad, EK's new concert venue. Members of the band will interact with fans and sign autographs after the show. Radio junkies may tune in to NU 107 and join the radio promo for a chance to win free tickets to the show.

On Oct. 28, at 5:30 p.m., EK parties with RX 93.1's "Scream All You Want." The Halloween dance party will be held at the Brooklyn Zone and will feature the station's top DJs together with up-and-coming band 9 mm and EK's house band mPower. DJ mixing, face-painting and fortune-telling will highlight the party. Various food carts offering a wide array of gastronomic treats will be set up at the party venue.

On Oct. 31, at 4 p.m., the hottest young celebrities will be performing in a special variety show at the Bandstand starting 4 p.m. for the launch of "Charlotte's Web" video release, the screen adaptation of E.B. White's perennial best-selling novel about a prizewinning pig named Wilbur. There will be games to enjoy and prizes to be won. Video collectors may check out "Charlotte's Web" video and a lot more from Magnavision that will be available for sale near the Bandstand.

Completing the Oct. 31 revelry is the lovable Pikachu mascot's fun day at the park. EK is inviting kids to have their photos taken with the adorable mascot as it goes around the park at 3-3:30 p.m. and 5-5:30 p.m.

And for the EK Halloween windfall, get set for a long, enjoyable weekend of more surprises and treats with the comeback of the "Lucky Visitor" promo. From Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, a lucky guest will be chosen for the day where he and four of his companions will be accorded VIP treatment—absolutely no queuing for rides, a personal park escort, complimentary commemorative photo with the Wizard and Princess Victoria, and other goodies from Enchanted Kingdom plus a complimentary Wizard Money worth P500, which gives a ticket holder and four of his companions the chance to be automatically upgraded to ride-all tickets.

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, Enchanted Kingdom will be open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. with a grand fireworks display at 9 p.m. From Nov. 5 onward, EK goes back to its regular park schedule (Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.). Call 830-2111 to 16 (Makati) or 843-6073 to 78 (Laguna).

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### 2BU!'S PALM PROMO

# Having the world in the Palm of your hand

BRIDJET

**By Pam Pastor**

**I HAVE a new best friend. No, I haven't traded Jason. I don't think I ever will—unless he decides to do the dumping. But I don't think Jason will be amenable to staying cooped up in my bag every single day. Or to have me tap-tap-tapping away almost every second. No. But that seems to be no problem for my Palm m100. I call her Bridjet.**

> Her name is Bridjet and she's my best friend. She could become yours, too

The day Microwarehouse's Aya Palmera and Fara Rodriguez introduced her to me, I have to admit I was feeling a bit apprehensive. My track record when it comes to handling handhelds (say that fast for 10 times) isn't exactly a clean slate. I've destroyed the Magic Diary I had when I was in Grade 5, my Canon zonked out on me, and the Philips Nino my dad passed on to me literally died in my hand—it switched off by itself and was never resurrected. The thought of falling in love with another gadget only to have it betray me later on made me feel a little queasy.

But Bridjet was adorable—light and compact and all dressed-up in a leopard-print case. Thoughtful Aya said, "I know plain wouldn't be right for you. I remember you were wearing a purple snakeskin skirt when we first met."

It was difficult not to like Bridjet immediately. She even had two friends with her. Aya lent me her Kodak Palm Pix and Palm Keyboard. Fara gave me a crash course on the different applications and told me to visit different websites to download even more. I went home giddy with excitement.

## Directory

First things first. Before I decided to submerge myself in a total Palm experience and go absolutely stylus-happy, I decided to focus on the more boring tasks first—fixing my directory. The reason I was so crushed when my Nino died was because my entire list of contacts disappeared in just a minute. Then again, you could also blame that on my lack of enthusiasm for syncing. I spent the next two days transferring data from my phone, address books and calling-card collection. Good thing I had excruciatingly drab Humanities classes—that gave me more time to work on my directory.

That done, I plunged into the world of the Palm-equipped and soon realized that Aya was right when she said, "You wouldn't be able to live without it."

I went to www.tucows.com, www.palm.com and download.cnet.com and downloaded countless applications. There are countless applications that you can download for free—there's even a Palma Sutra.

The great thing about the Palm is that you can alter it to fit your lifestyle—you can choose which applications you want and trash those that you don't need. I got myself a PortaPimp, the Tamagochi of handhelds. It was hilarious when Fara showed me her PortaPam (yes, Anderson). Fara had forgotten to give her food—the blonde was lying on a bed with a thermometer in her mouth. I downloaded a dictionary, a logo and ringtone maker, etc., etc. Unfortunately, my old PC decided to screw up. For some reason, after the initial HotSync, I couldn't do it anymore. I had to settle for applications that my uncle beamed to me. Days later, another uncle purchased a Palm m505. He showed off the m505's video feature and the e-book reader. He had been poring over Tarzan the past days and loving every minute of it. He beamed me more applications, including the very addicting Bubblet and Word Forge.

Games aren't the only reason to fall in love with your Palm. Bridjet has come to my aid endless times. One day, in Lifestyle class, the teacher sprung on us an on-the-spot press conference. We were all surprised to see Assunta de Rossi sitting at the teacher's table when we entered the room. No one had a camera. But I had my Palm m100 and Aya's Kodak Palm Pix. So, ha!

Long cab rides have become more productive. I've spent several updating my notepad, tapping in journal entries, planning future issues, etc., etc., etc.

Bridjet has replaced my usual stash of scrap paper and leaky pen. I finally got around to reading Stephen King's "On Writing." I'd stop right in the middle of it to jot down book titles that he mentioned—that's a task that would have required minutes spent fumbling for a pen and trying to find a blank page in my messy notebooks, but not anymore. The list is now safely stored in Bridjet.

I have also said goodbye to my "things to-do" Post-Its. I have them all in my Bridjet.

## Bedside companion

One thing that used to give me problems was when people called my cell phone to ask for another person's number, which I couldn't immediately give because it is stored in my phone and I didn't have my organizer with me. This would take a long process of putting down the phone, me searching for the person's number in the phone and jotting it down, waiting for the person asking to call back and then me rattling off the number. Now, people can call anytime, I can switch Bridjet on and in just two strokes have the number ready.

I sleep with Bridjet beside me and wake up in the morning reaching out for her (okay, after my cell phone). I bring her with me everywhere. As soon as the next paycheck comes in, I intend to get new accessories. And, of course, more applications.

Just last week, Aya beamed me more applications. I now have a favorite—the Voodoo application. You have the image of a voodoo doll on the screen, you write the person's name and then start "pricking" the doll with your stylus. The doll will react every single time with, "Please!," "Stop!," "My Guts!" and "Leave Me Alone!" Pretty good if you're infuriated with someone.

Another useful application is Meal Tip. This little application will help you figure out how much to tip your waiter and how much you and your friends should each pay if you decide to split the bill.

A lot of handheld users have gotten addicted to Dope Wars. I remember when I was in India with Jana (this was the pre-Bridjet era), I kept admiring her discipline. Every time we came from a shopping expedition, I'd see her tinkering with her handheld. I thought she was listing her expenses. "No," she said, "I'm selling drugs. I have millions of dollars already." I looked at the petite Chinese girl before me and wrinkled my brow. Now I understand completely.

As for me, I'm not just hooked on Dope Wars. I'm plain addicted to the Palm m100. Oh, okay, Bridjet. She might get jealous.

You want to have Pam's Palm? We will be giving away a Palm m100. Join the 2bU! Palm Promo, brought to you by Microwarehouse and Pinoyexchange.com. Come up with a list of 100 things you can do with your Palm and head on to www.pinoyexchange.com/m100ways.

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LIFESTYLE

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## DREAM JOBS

# Somebody for a day

For once, writing takes a backseat as 2bU! staffers try to see if they have what it takes to be a model, a photographer, a DJ, a VJ and a band vocalist

**BEING cooped up in an office the whole day is now considered "uncool." Ask teenagers what they want to become and you'll find that having a 9-to-5 job is at the bottom of the list—if it's there at all. They do not dream of memos, photocopy machines, paydays, sick leaves and bundies. Most of them desire fame, shrieking fans, VIP treatment, autograph-seekers, abundant bank accounts, respect, admiration, even envy.**

While hoping and wishing with all our heart's might is free, reality is waving its red flag at us. Out of the many who dream, only a few lucky individuals will bask in the luxury these careers have to offer. We only get to see snippets of their world from chopped, diced, minced and flavored bits of publicity (or hero-worship, for that matter) that is served by the press. The rest of us are left wondering. How does the climb to the top begin? What really goes on behind the scenes, when the microphone is turned off and the makeup stripped away? Are their lives just an endless party?

2bU! wanted a closer look. More than just a look, actually. We abandoned our normal lives for a few days and stepped into the shoes of people whose professions we can only imagine in our wildest dreams. Armed with hardly anything else but guts, we tried to see what it took to break into their glamorous and possibly misunderstood worlds. Here is what we found out.

## Striking a pose

SO what if I'm 6 ft tall. I'm almost as thin as a toothpick and my friends think I'm an Afghan refugee. My skin isn't perfect and my teeth would make good use of braces. I've never been thought of as handsome, except for my mother, and I feel she expressed that thought out of maternal duty. Overall, I look ordinary, and I don't think my face could launch a thousand ships, much less sell toothpaste. But I have to admit, that in the deepest, darkest region of my brain, I fantasized about getting thousands of pesos for walking or posing for the camera. And it remained just that until I was given the chance of being a model for a day—without getting the money.

The Best Model of the World contest is going into full swing, and the contestants have been busy doing

STRIKING/p.E4

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Question of the Week
October 20-26

Sino ang tinaguriang "The Living Legend" sa Philippine Basketball?

1. Robert Jaworski
2. Paeng Nepomuceno
3. Larry Bird

Ang daling sumali!

To earn a raffle entry, you must answer 2 questions correctly.

1 Dial 135-1 para i-text ang sagot sa Question of the Week.*

2 Kung tama ang sagot mo, hintayin ang second question.

3 Para sagutin ang second question, ibaba ang telepono at muling i-dial ang 135-1.

4 Kung tama ang sagot mo, i-text ang pangalan at birthday.
For example:
- Name Entry: Dan Ty
  Press 3 once for the letter D, press 2 once for the letter A, press 6 two times for the letter N. Press 0 for space. Press 8 once for the letter T, press 9 three times for the letter Y. Press # two times to submit your name.
- Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
  Press 07131965 to submit your birthday.

5 If you want to send more entries, dial ka uli ng 135-1 at i-text ang sagot. Entries should be sent from 6:00 am to 12:00 mn. Abangan ang resulta ng bola sa newspapers o sa mail.

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PLDT
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# Somebody for a day

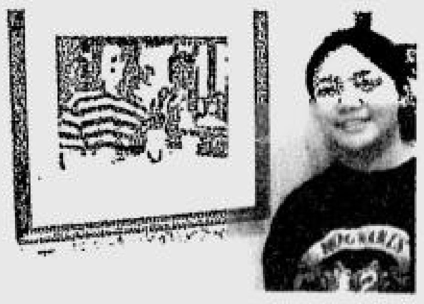
(From page E1)

## Candid camera

ONE of my dream jobs is to be a photographer. Either to be a part of the Reuters staff or to become like my favorite David LaChapelle. I know these will be fulfilled not in the near future. So as a start I've been snapping anything like crazy and I've been joining classes. Last month, a photo of mine was displayed in my class' photo exhibit. No biggie but not bad for a click-happy amateur who still can't define aperture.

For my article assignment, I asked Pam if I could join the INQUIRER photo staff on a weekend. But the plan was shelved because I was tired that Saturday and all the action usually happens on weekdays.

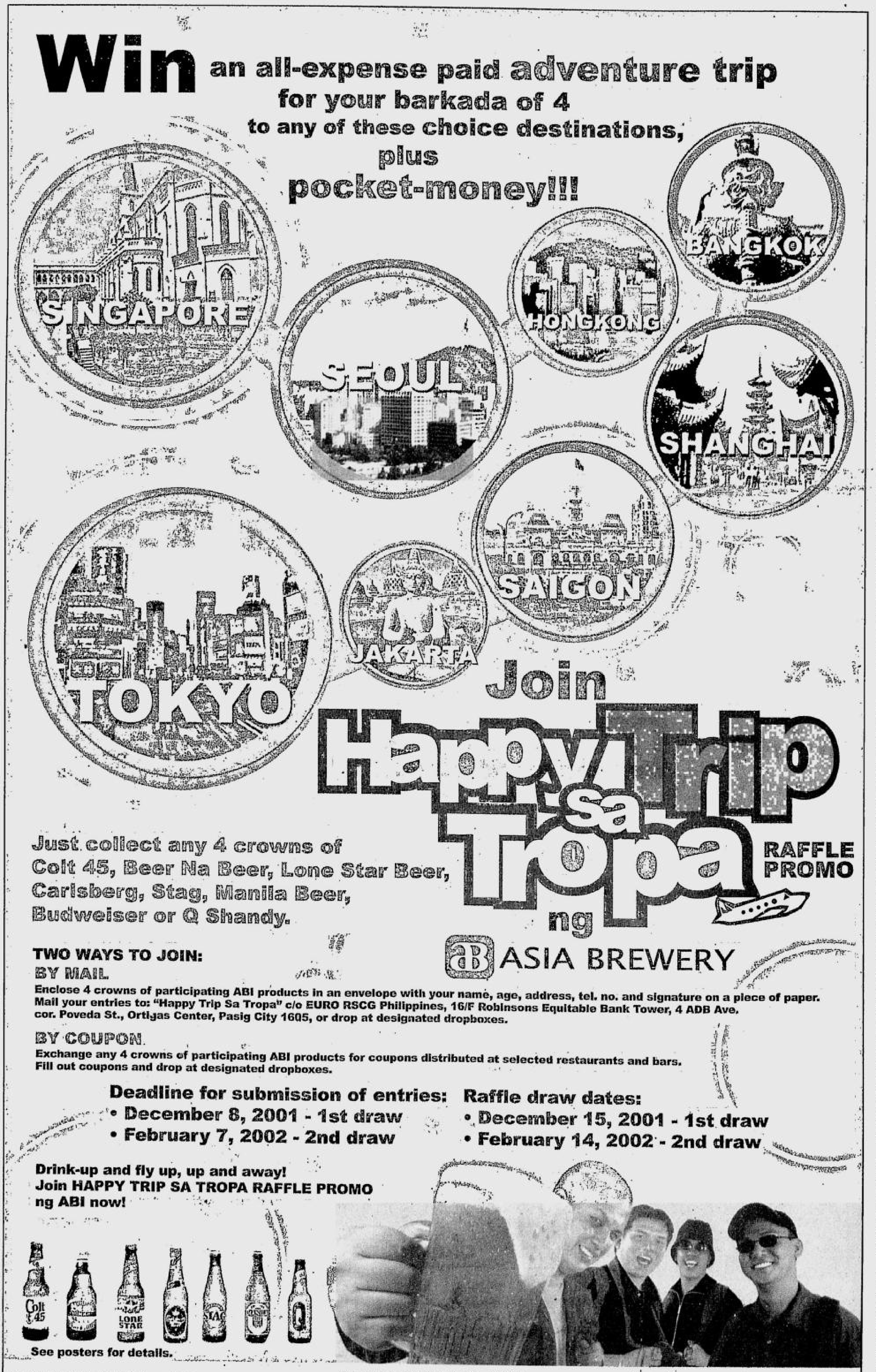
The day before, I was supposed to go with PDI photographer Erik Arazas. I woke up two hours early to photograph 2bU's model material, Jason, on his "gig" in the MTV Fashionista search. I was a zombie considering it was hot that morning, but Jason's smile and his enthusiasm made me forget everything, including my Media Education test. After I clicked and snapped, shot after shot, I developed the negatives that afternoon and was happy that the outcome was great. Jason looked fabulous! I'm no PRO and not a good critic, but I know it's a good picture if my friends stare at a photo for more than five seconds with a little smile slowly forming, "*Galing ah.*"



But my "almost had it" dream didn't come true. One of my dream photos is to capture the emotions of the Ferrai *tifosi* during an Italian Grand Prix or the football fans during the UEFA or the World Cup. A friend told me the nearest thing to that would be the La Salle-Ateneo UAAP basketball finals. It was hard getting a ticket, it was easier to get tickets to Dave Matthew's concerts than a decent seat at the Big Dome for Game 3. Luckily I found a nice scalper and shelled out P1,200 for ringside tickets. Everything was set, all I need was the perfect moment. To end the long story short, I had a great experience during my first-ever UAAP game, but my camera never made it inside because I had to surrender it. I was crying even before the game started, but there's always next year. It will come. At least, I got to take a picture of the scalpers (Groan).

***Tammy David***

*E-mail the author at Chris_trent_thom @lycos.com*



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**READING** a news piece at a personal audition

**TRYING** to figure out the console but not without DJ Trish at a near distance

## Ms DJ, can I make a request?

IF you were listening to Monster Radio RX 93.1 late last Thursday night, then you probably heard me messing up the frequency modulation—as guest "DJ" Cher—alongside CJ Rodriguez and Dr. Love/Tom Alvarez. Unexpected, isn't it? It all started when Pam called me two weeks ago, asking me if I wanted to become a "DJ for a day" for our dream issue. Sure, why not? It sounded like it was going to be a lot of fun. She had already set up a mock audition for me c/o RX's program director Louie Dizon, and all I had to do was show up. I was set...sort of.

My stint as "DJ for a day" turned me into a DJ for three days. It was a much more complex process than I had expected.

**WILL** the real DJs please stand up? Well, they already are... Dr. Love/Tom Alvarez (left), CJRodriguez and their DJ protégée

PHOTOS BY CHERYL TIU

### Day 1

I met with Louie Dizon at the station and he gave me a synopsis of how the whole DJ system worked. Applicants usually send their bio-data and demo tapes. The station has a program called Radio One that airs every Saturday night wherein aspiring college students get to board alternately (when they're ready; the shifts change every weekend), but they must first undergo rigorous training—learning all the theories and being taught how to handle the console (colloquially speaking, the soundboard). College graduates, on the other hand, go straight to the auditions.

After leaving me with every DJ's Golden Rule—to be careful about what you say on air because once vile language is uttered, it cannot be taken back—I was ready for my personal audition. "Whatever" girl Trish took me to this little room where she had set up the machines to record me on minidisk. I had to read two news pieces and for one minute, talk about myself and why I wanted to become a DJ at RX. Reading the news pieces was fine with me, but I hated talking about myself. Why did I want to become a DJ? My answer: "I think it's pretty cool to be getting your messages across without having to show your face to anyone"—ha!

### Day 2

I sat in the booth during Fran and Trish's "Whatever" segment for a while, just observing what they were doing. While the songs were playing, Trish showed me how to handle the console, which looked like a mass of switches, buttons and slides with labels for microphones, callers, CDs, MDs and cart machines. She taught me how to segue, a.k.a., how to join two songs, which could only be properly made possible if the song was cued first. (Cueing a song ensures that the song starts exactly when you press the "Play" button and determines which parts of the songs can sensibly overlap each other when segueing). I was already baffled enough just watching her. So imagine how distraught I was when I actually sat down to apply what I had just learned (of course, with Trish by my side, having to constantly remind me what to press next). Both processes entail alertness, good memory and a keen sense of hearing; consequences include generating awkward pauses between songs and missing the song or putting on the wrong song or commercial. This is half the art of being a DJ that goes unseen by the rest of the world.

### Day 3

I arrived at the station at 9:50 p.m., 10 minutes before CJ Rodriguez's airtime—how punctual, I know. CJ told me that the instructions left to him was that I was going to be the one behind the DJ's booth, segueing the songs and talking on air. I almost fainted at those words, for two reasons. 1) I had never put my voice on public display... ever. 2) I had almost completely forgotten everything that Trish had taught me on my previous visit (keyword: almost). But he and Dr. Love/Tom Alvarez, who had stayed after his segment, insisted that I sit on the DJ's chair and man the booth. I predicted a disaster.

Both CJ and Tom refreshed my memory by teaching me how to cue and segue songs once again, and they assured me that Tom would be behind me to help me throughout. I freaked out every time there was about 50 seconds left before a song would end, but the nonchalance of CJ and Tom made it seem as though those 50 seconds were 50 minutes—hello! It wasn't just the songs, but there were the RX stingers (those in-between-songs buzz clips that remind you what station you're listening to), the commercials, and the background music when the DJs talked.

I had panic attacks. I even screwed up a couple of times, having one-second pauses before the next song or commercial, but as the program continued on, I started getting the hang of it, of course not without Dr. Love coming to my rescue almost every other time. Surprisingly, talking on air wasn't difficult at all for me—I felt as though I was just conversing with CJ and Tom in the booth, unhinged from ears that I could not see. But I made two boo-boos on air when I announced to the listener populace that we had "a Side A Plug coming up" (only to find out that I was only supposed to introduce the idea of a commercial), and when the words "Planet-X AOB" came out of my mouth (apparently, AOB is an off-air acronym that means Announcer on Board)—whoops! It was humiliating but I just swallowed my pride and went on.

I had the opportunity to talk to a couple of callers on air and read text messages from the station's cell phone, and that excited me because it was my first "actual" contact with the listeners. I even had some addressed to me and I found that really overwhelming. I ended up staying till around 1:30 a.m. (initially I was only supposed to stay from 10-11 p.m.)! I was having such a great time that I had lost track of the time. But I had to go since my eyelids were already starting to play peek-a-boo with me.

This is basically what happens in the land of the DJs. These voices have become personalities that it is almost difficult to see beyond what is heard. The three days I was at RX might have been a mouthful for me, but it was actually just a slice of the big pie the DJs had baked with hard work and fervor. Well, they have brought delight to the millions of listeners. They themselves seem to enjoy it, as if they are merely tossing ingredients into the bowl. But really, it's not easy.

***Cheryl Tiu***

*E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com*

# Boracay challenges Pinoys' survival skills

BY MARC S. LEVISTE

**HOW would you feel if you got an opportunity to experience paradise for free, have a high-tech cell phone, see yourself on the pages of major newspapers and magazines, as well as local and international television shows? In addition to all this, you could also get a chance to win P100,000 and visit Africa. All you have to do in return is survive six days in the wilder side of Boracay.**

On Sept. 22, close to 80 participants were selected from more than 100 who signed up for the Philippine's first Philips Survival Challenge. As early as 6 a.m., contestants trooped to the Rockwell Tent in Makati City (imagine the challenge of waking up on a lazy weekend and saving enough energy to last the whole day). Their objective: to go beyond the ordinary.

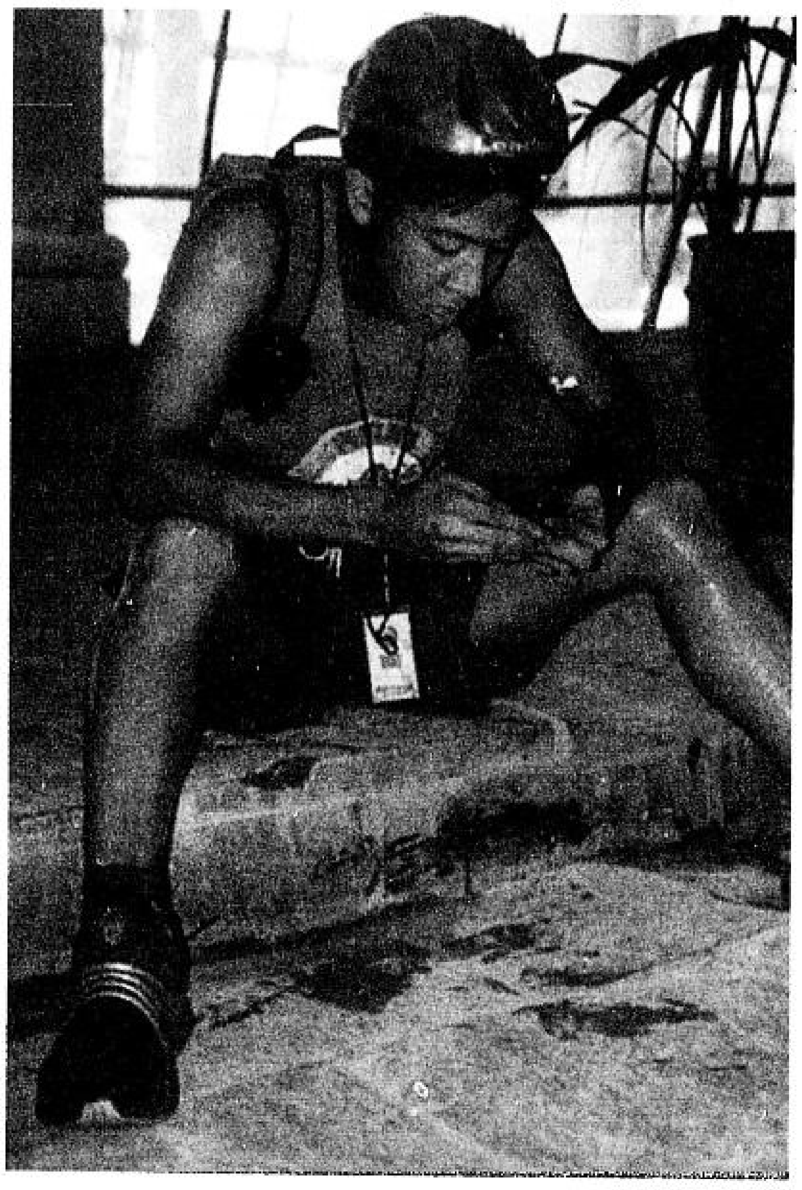
The first activity was a 2-km run around the Power Plant Mall, followed immediately by a wall-climbing event where participants had to climb a 50-ft-tall wall within a specified time. Right after the first leg of the physical challenge, they had to answer a 100-item IQ examination. Based on the total scores from the different challenges, more participants were eliminated, bringing the number of candidates down to 50 (25 male, 25 female).

After lunch, an inflated obstacle course awaited the contenders, reducing further the number to 20. The remaining contestants had to win the nod of a panel of judges through a personality test—they acted, danced and even told jokes, among others.

By 3 p.m., the group was down to eight consisting of Illac Diaz (29 years old), Alain Lo (26), Thumbie Remegio (later on replaced by Leo Magno, 32), Vikki Aquino (35), Jac Colmenares (21), Lala Diaz (24), Abby Javellana (28) and myself (23).

One week later, having passed a medical examination, the circle of eight went to Boracay. The contestants were given the latest Philips mobile phone (Xenium 9@9) and sent to a special place on the island, somewhere far from the powder-white sands and crystal clear water.

The "survivors" had to compete for six days with only the barest necessities and the cell phone. The Xenium was part of every activity. The challenge did not only test the participants' endurance, but also the cell phone's battery life and durability.



**THE AUTHOR** takes a break.

During the first three days, the group was divided into two teams. Each team underwent activities like treasure hunt, relay (mountain bike, hiking and water run), wall climbing and Gotcha! paint ball.

On the fourth day, the top four survivors (based on points) moved on—Vikki, Alain, Jac and Marc (Coincidentally, all four belonged to one team.) This time, their intellectual and creative capacities were tested. The four were required to answer questions such as current events, history, etc. via text messaging. Marc, Vikki and Alain advanced to the next round where they had to build a sandcastle. At the end of the activity, Alain was eliminated, leaving Marc and Vikki battling for the right to be the sole survivor.

Right after dinner, the two top survivors, together with those who were eliminated in the Tribal Council, gathered on the beach amid the cool breeze with bamboo torches symbolizing the spirit and emotions of what had been an extraordinary challenge. For the last activity, judgment night, Marc and Vikki were put on the "hot" seats while the rest of the contestants were given the chance to address their concerns and ask questions of their fellow contenders. The council was to base its choice of the "ultimate survivor" on the results of evening's activities.

As in "Survivor 1 and 2," the decision was not announced immediately. Who between Marc and Vikki won was supposed to have been made Oct. 12. But there was already a clear survivor of six days of roughing it in Boracay—the Philips Xenium 9@9.

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# Getting sure seats in events on the Net

CHECKING the e-mail, surfing the Internet and chatting are what we usually do during our free time—or when the boss is not looking. Nazario Ramon "Pom" Figueroa does all these—and gets paid for it.

But it's not all play for this 22-year-old. After all, he has gargantuan responsibility as technical head of myAyala. The company was created by Ayala Land Inc., the country's premier property developer, and iAyala Co. Inc., the information technology arm of Ayala Corporation, for wired and wireless business solutions. He leads the small team of "techie guys" of myAyala, composed of Sunny Zandro Uy, Nelson Tan and Don Batino. They are the programmers behind the websites and mobile commerce programs of ALI, Ayala Malls, Nestlé Philippines, and a host of other institutional clients. And none of them have even turned 24.

Not that age sets them apart from their peers in the company. The average age of myAyala employees is 20-27 years old. Says Pom: "*Pag* young *kasi*, do or die *kami*. We take risks. It's an advantage because we're not just programmers, we're also involved with the creative side."

## Sureseats.com

They certainly gave a lot of input in a recent project with Globe Telecom involving Sureseats.com, the online ticket reservations system of myAyala.com. The idea was to introduce ticket reservations through mobile phones, a service already provided by Sureseats.com on the Internet. As avid cell phone users themselves, Pom and his gang immediately saw the advantage of making Sureseats.com text-accessible.

"Texting can be more powerful than the Internet because you get information and service anytime and anywhere," notes Pom.

Now texters can reserve tickets—even while stuck in traffic on the way to the mall—by typing *sureseats <theater name> <cinema number> <screening time> <number tickets>* and sending the message to 2333. For example, a person can reserve two tickets for the 6:20 p.m. screening at Glorietta 4, Cinema 3 by typing *sureseats G4 3 6:20 p.m. 2*. The system returns a confirmation text that the sender should display when picking up the tickets at the cinema. A maximum of six tickets can be reserved per text, which is charged a service fee of P2 for post-paid and P2.50 for pre-paid Globe Handyphone users, on top of the P10 reservation fee per ticket.

The service complements the Sureseats.com website, which allows users to view the schedules of films being screened and make reservations in cinemas at Ayala Center, Greenbelt and Alabang Town Center. For cinemas where guaranteed seating is available, Sureseats.com also gives users the option to specify where they want to be seated in the moviehouse. Moviegoers only need to print out the confirmation message and show up 30 minutes before screening time to pick up and pay for the movie tickets.

## Not just geeks

All told, Sureseats.com gets around 400 ticket reservations per day through the Web, WAP and text. Pom believes that as word spreads in the texting community—and it inevitably does—more people will avail of the service.

**POM** Figueroa, Nelson Tan, Sunny Uy and Don Batino bring their youth's energy, cutting-edge ideas and tech-savvy into myAyala's wire and wireless business projects.

It's somewhat ironic that Pom gets calls for emergency technical support many times while he's in the middle of a movie. "Being in this field conflicts with your personal life," he smiles ruefully. "But you don't turn off your cell phone because you're also committed to your job."

It's not that they're tied down to their jobs; they simply love doing what they do. Sunny says that although work occasionally overwhelms him when there are several projects going at the same time, what he has learned has more than made up for any inconveniences. "We started debugging and writing webpages and now we're into software development. There's a lot of room for growth."

Besides, when they do get a break, they literally stay as far away from work as possible. "I don't touch my PC at home *kasi kasama ko na 'yan* every day," Don confesses. Nelson says he travels out of town as a means of escape. And Sunny parties with friends or goes back to his hometown in Bacolod to unwind. "So don't call us geeks," he says, rolling his eyes.

Pom warns, however, that they're not expecting to do any unwinding in the months ahead. Already, the team is bursting with ideas on a new project for developing the ticketing software that runs Sureseats.com. Pom mentions providing ticket reservations for other cinemas and special events such as plays and concerts held in other venues. They want to make sure that Sureseats.com ticket buyers are of the right age for rated films and eliminate problems of double seating. They are also considering allowing patrons to actually purchase tickets online and through text.

"We want to develop this as a Filipino-made ticketing software that can compete with similar software from Singapore, Taiwan, or Japan," Pom says. He projects that the enhanced Sureseats.com will be up and running by the first quarter of 2002. From the eager look in the young faces of myAyala's technical team, they just might be able to do that.

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# Search for Travel Girl is on

THE NETWORK of Independent Travel Agencies, with the Department of Tourism, presents the nationwide search for Travel Girl Philippines 2002, where P1 million worth of prizes are at stake.

Smart, witty and presentable, single Filipinas, age 18-24, at least 5'5", college student and/or professionals, fluent in written and/or oral Tagalog and English, knowledgeable on Philippine tourism issues and destinations, willing to travel here and abroad, are invited to join the contest.

The winner will get P1 million worth of cash, career opportunities, travel and other fabulous prizes. Reigning Travel Girl Philippine 2000 Chiqui Lucindo is now an in-house talent of ABS-CBN and the image model of Palmolive Shampoo.

Application and screening dates for candidates will be held on Oct. 27 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The semi-finalists will be presented on Nov. 14. Winners will be proclaimed on Nov. 30 at the Grand Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza.

Interested parties may submit resumé and colored photo (full body, half and close-up shots) at the Travel Cooperative Office, 2253 Tramo St., Pasay City or call Kathy, Rachel or Grace at 833-2551.

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# Somebody for a day

(From page E2)

## VJ venture

Venue: MTV Philippines Studio
Date: Oct. 18, 2001
Time: 7 p.m.

WANT to hear a sad (and pathetic) story? In the summer of '98 while I was in New York, I made sure to go first to 1515 on Broadway. Why? It was 1515 Viacom, as in 1515 MTV. That's not the only sad part—how about me bursting into tears once I saw the blue and red MTV banners on the second floor's glass windows? I still have the embarrassing pictures to prove it.

Now the closest I've probably gotten to MTV in the US would be the building's security guard shoving us out of the building and us watching MTV VJ Ananda Lewis do her thing on Times Square. I was even humiliated when the security guard didn't believe I came from the Philippines and suggested "I join the TRL teenyboppers outside with the banners at 4 p.m." But my experience with MTV Asia would be different. When I was 15 years old, I braved the crowd in Megamall for 45 minutes with my friend Amanda and tried out for the VJ Hunt (of course, the kind lady at the reception table said age didn't matter. Looking back I could have used up that time to watch a movie).

You're probably thinking what kind of a retard I am. The thing is, ever since that little "MTV" logo popped up on the upper right-hand corner of the screen on TV, I had wanted to be part of it. I had this whole fantasy of being discovered by MTV and getting a gig as a VJ, and when I would get too old (you know, for VJ standards), I'd move on and take Kurt Loder's place. I remember watching imported shows with Idalis and Kennedy on the microphone, or Simon Rex reading requests. Yep, that was the life I wanted. The life of Danny McGil interviewing Stephan Jenkins, the life of Matt Pinfield who hung out with rock icons. And since the odds of me being a VJ are slim to none (have you *seen* the lines at the "I Wannabe a VJ Contest" on Times Square alone?), I thought that, hey, I'm of legal age now, and another audition on MTV Philippines wouldn't hurt.

7 p.m. This is the audition time set for me by Charley Bautista, MTV's PR officer. I arrive at the venue on time, and a girl stops me in the hallway and asks me if I will audition for the VJ Hunt. She escorts me to the offices where I see an old friend, the fab Frankie Villeno. I'm told Charley wasn't there yet, and with a puzzled look, she tells me the auditions were done already.

7:05 p.m. I'm ushered into this room with a table and a couple of chairs. A clothes rack stands in one corner, half of it filled with wild threads and maybe even a marabou. A girl comes in and asks for my name and number, which she makes me write on a sheet of paper with a schedule. She doesn't exactly look too pleased to see me. Frankie hands me a mock script, which has me introducing J.Lo's video, "I'm Real." It has tidbits about the song, like how it climbed from #90 on the Billboard Charts to #10. I'm thinking, no biggie, I can swing this.

7:10 p.m. Frankie calls me in the "studio." It's fairly small—okay, *really small*, not as glamorous as it seems on TV, which actually seems kind of nice (I'm weird, don't mind me). Charley hasn't arrived yet, and no one will take my picture as I audition. Basically they hook a microphone to me (I have waited all my life to wear one of those). I am told where to stand. The moment I clip the microphone to my shirt, the light gets busted.

7:15 p.m. The light has been replaced and we're ready to roll. Here's the bummer part: Frankie tells me that I have to speak in either Taglish or straight Filipino. Cue in "Psycho" theme. Not only am I terrible at speaking *straight* Filipino, but you *cannot* make me speak Taglish and not come up with about a gazillion "*ano*," "*un*," "*kasi*" and "*alam mo yon*?" in a conversation.

7:18 pm. The cameras are rolling and Frankie asks me a couple of questions about myself. Introduce yourself, what shows do you watch on MTV, what do you think of music videos, how many hours a day do you watch MTV. I find myself speaking in straight English and Frankie reminds me again to speak in Taglish (by this time I was making a mental note to strangle Frankie when the camera stops). Looking back, I probably said a lot of nonsense things about making videos and why MTV rocks.

MUSIC TELEVISION

**SHE LIKES.** Angst-ridden Maui turns into queen of perk for a day.

7:25 p.m. If my friends have to watch my audition tape of this segment, they will probably laugh their heads off. I introduce J. Lo's video, the Ja Rule remix version of "I'm Real." I am not only holding back my laughter at my sad attempt to introduce the video in Tagalog, but I also trip over words and I accidentally call J.Lo "Janet Jackson." We do around three takes of my intro, and by the last take I feel like a bummed-out loser. I am still laughing. "Now you know what KC has to go through every day," Frankie says, nudging me. Bah, I doubt he felt like a bummed out loser, though.

7:30 p.m. I get out of the studio and find Charley sitting beside the infamous office photo-corkboard. She says they wouldn't let her in during my brief audition (geez, it's not like it was a CNN taping), so she couldn't take pictures. She suggests I take pics of me with the MTV logo instead. I don't want to bother the crew again to hook me up with the microphone and turn on the lights again just to get a photo-op, so I agree with the MTV logo pose.

When I get home my mom is jumping with excitement. I tell her I am not about to go on TV, and it was just an audition. She seems disappointed (ever the stage mother, she had me shopping the day before for no apparent reason—*yeah right*), but I am not. Sure, I feel terrible whenever I realize what I said made absolutely no sense, or when I remember they gave me a script that I hardly followed. I had always pictured the audition would be me sitting down comfortably on the couch and me introducing whatever video I wanted, me giving the little info on the videos and artists.

So okay, maybe I wouldn't be on MTV anytime soon. Emphasis on the word "soon." I still believe that one day I could pull off a Carson Daly and be invited to host an obscure show on MTV. Hey, if Jesse Camp could do it, anyone can. No one said dreaming is bad.

And by that time, I'd be able to say those words—"Hey look mom, I'm on TV!"

Still, I have that mental note to strangle Frankie for the last-minute warning.

***Maui V. Reyes***

## Striking a pose

(From page E1)

photo shoots in preparation for the finals night in November. Robbie Carmona, fashion director and local franchise owner of the contest, helped me get past the screening and had me go to one of their shoots as a "mock" candidate. It would help me realize the hard work that goes into pictorials and the things that models have to go through.

It was a day before the photo shoot when I got to meet the first challenge: getting there at 7 a.m. For an insomniac like me who usually goes to bed during sunrise, it posed a problem. And it didn't help that I was on the verge of a fever; my tonsillitis had been bothering me for days. But I realized that professionalism is an important trait of a successful model, so I slept early (read: 3 a.m.) to make it to the pictorial on time. But of course, that didn't happen. Thanks to a throbbing headache, early morning traffic and my screwed-up sense of direction.

When I arrived an hour late at the studio of photographer Ronnie Salvacion, things were still laid-back and there was no frenetic screaming from the one in-charge of the shoot. I guess that sort of thing only happens during fashion shows where a single mistake can send unfavorable adjectives toward your direction. The concepts for the shoot were still being tested and most of the models hadn't gone through their makeup yet with expert Lala Flores. They were lounging around sleeping, watching FTV and browsing through the fashion and photography magazines available. Three of them, Carlo Adorador, Jasmine Hazel Williams and DJ de Guzman, were staring at nothing, probably trying to decide whether to keep their eyes open or just sleep. I approached and asked them about their experience in the industry since my one day wouldn't compare to their years of modeling. "Honestly, there's a lot of waiting involved in modeling," Carlo, 19, said. "Shoots like this can last for a day without anything much happening." True enough, this particular shoot was scheduled to last until the afternoon. The models had to go through two rounds of makeup and hairstyling and they were not allowed to leave the studio in-between gaps.

"That's why it's important for you to be patient," Jasmine, 20, added. "A model doesn't only wait during shoots. She waits for the result of her go-sees, she waits to get fitted, and she waits for her assignments. *Kailangan talaga 'yung tiyaga*." Go-see is the industry's term for audition. It's the short term for "go see the designer."

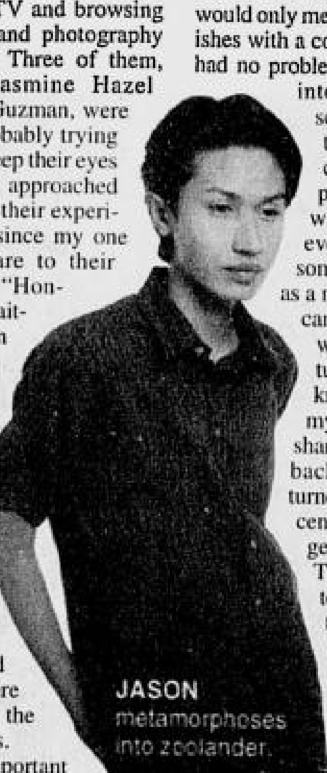
To be a model, it is better to take the initiative. It is seldom for someone to be approached and be asked to model. Jasmine, for instance, joined the local Supermodel of the World contest before making it in the industry. Carlo took his friend's advice and went to a go-see.

As far as preparations are concerned, these guys didn't really do much. "Whatever you need to do to make you look good, you should have done way before," said DJ. "For example, you can't be fit overnight. You should've had the discipline of maintaining your body ever since, as that would help you look good." Admittedly, it would take good looks for someone to make it. And although the standards of beauty change from time to time, the typical western-looking models still get majority of the assignments. Carlo said this is because they can adapt to a wider range of looks, compared to exotic-looking ones. "But then, designers are always open to new ideas, so there will always be openings for different looks," he added. They said that in one contest, the finalists all look different—there was a half-Australian, *tisay*, very Pinoy, half-black, *chinita*, large-built, thin and a bit chubby. I'm filling in for the weird category. But if there's any common denominator in all of them, it would be their clear skin and good height.

**IN WAITING.** (from left) Finalists DJ de Guzman, Jasmine Williams and Carlo Adorador

PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID

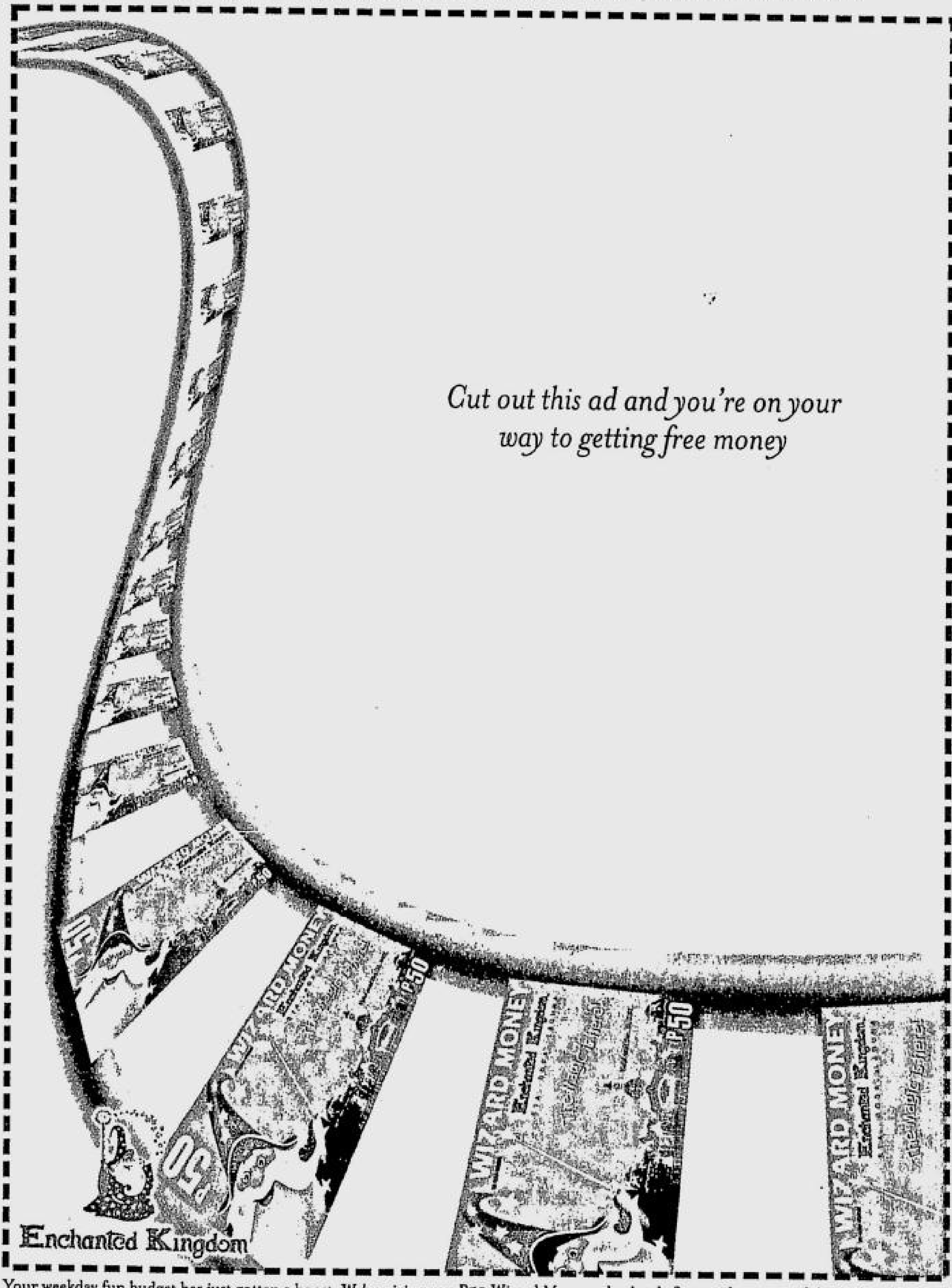
Hours had passed when I take my turn at the makeup table. For guys, it would only mean covering up their blemishes with a concealer and foundation. I had no problems with that since I was into theater back in high school. When it was my turn to pose in front of the camera and all these people who cared to watch, I was so embarrassed for even trying. I remembered someone on TV saying that as a model, she flirted with the camera so the photographer would get a smashing picture of her. "But I don't know how to flirt," I told myself. So I looked down in shame, folded my arms at the back, and surprisingly, it turned out to be a pretty decent shot. It was either I'm getting good as a model, or Tammy, our resident photographer, was getting better in photography. Whatever. People who have known me will always pick the latter (except for my Mom).



**JASON** metamorphoses into zoolander.

***Jason Doplito***

*E-mail the author at jason_2bu@yahoo.com*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P50
Enchanted Kingdom

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PEX EK MAGIC

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2333

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TYPE IN:
COUPON EKMAGIC
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211

Wait for the reply text, save it, and present it to our Makati Sales Office or the Enchanted Kingdom front gate ticket counter, and you can avail of our weekday offer.
*If you receive a text message saying you can avail of the Weekend offer and you prefer the Weekday offer, simply repeat the texting process until you get the reply you prefer.

Globe texters are encouraged to also text in their feedback on Enchanted Kingdom. Just send to the same number as above.
**Text messages sent will be charged the normal rate.

Promo is good only for Weekday Ride-All ticket purchases. Offer valid until October 28, 2001.

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Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore Branches, Tower Records (Makati, Alabang), Robinson's Dept. Stores (Galleria, Manila), Ticketworld Head Office.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3372, Series of 2001

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new ring tones
top ten logos

zed
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They're alive! Zed's most requested logos, ring tones, and picture messages from Oct. 16 to 22.
If you're a SMART Buddy, SMART Gold or Talk 'N Text subscriber, download them now.,Or else...

# Somebody for a day

(From page E4)

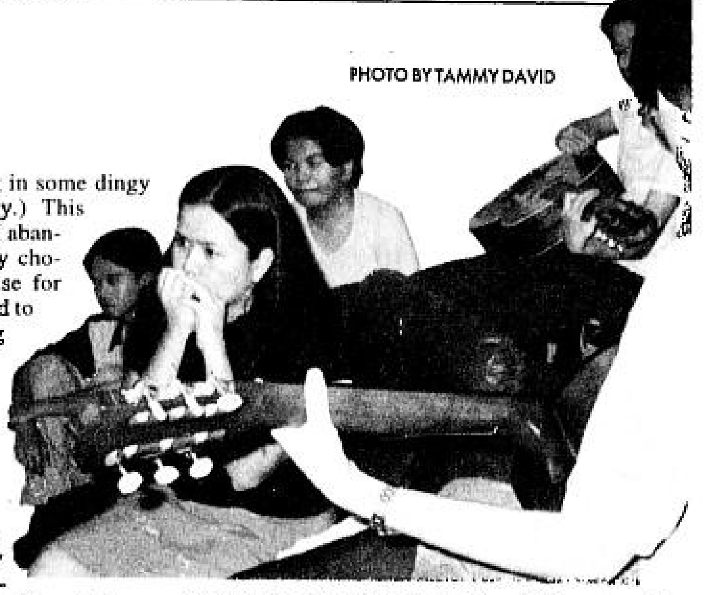

PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVID

## Jagged little jingle

**(FROM LEFT)** Kat-Kat, Felice, the author and Chrissie

YOU remember that poor kid who was forced to sing at your family parties whether she liked it or not? That was me. A huge chunk of my memory bank is devoted to little colored clippings of me at different sizes and ages being cajoled by mom and other relatives to start belting my heart out. At that age, there was hardly any choice but to do what the grown-ups wanted me to do, lest they disown me. It didn't matter if what I really wanted to do was just stay in that corner with my precious books. If little Pammy was handed a microphone, she was expected to sing.

It is possibly in one of these moments that I discovered my love for music. (This was also probably when I started to draw comfort from the thought that no matter how screwed up life may get, if I end up unemployed, I could always sing in some dingy bar and save my family from poverty.) This passion continued to grow although I abandoned the thought of continuing my chorale activities in high school because for some strange reason, doing so seemed to be dorky. Bands were the cool thing then. My cousins and I (or our parents, rather) invested in musical instruments—we formed a makeshift garage band. It has become tradition (it could also called torture, based on the point of view of my family and friends) since high school for my cousins, my brother and me to entertain guests at my birthday party by playing songs. This year, we decided that acoustic was the way to go. I could have cheated on this assignment and just wrote about how we used to perform at family parties, but having all your relatives adoring your every squeak and every miscalculated beat doesn't really count. I decided to go and search for a professional band.

I am a starving musician, a starving musician, I muttered to myself as I searched the classifieds and online job sites for bands that were looking for a vocalist. To my surprise, finding quite a number of them was a breeze. The difficult part was weeding out those people who wanted to send me to Japan to sing for drunk businessmen. Shortened list in hand, I began making calls. Some bands already found singers, others had disbanded. One call was particularly interesting. It turned out the person I was talking to was a talent manager/"*chismis*" writer/radio announcer (according to him, anyway). He asked a lot of questions, like how old I was and how long my hair was. I was still wondering what the length of my mop had to do with my performing abilities when he suddenly said, *"Hija, baka gusto mo rin mag*-sexy star?" Umm, if it's not too much to ask, I was kinda hoping I'd remain fully clothed when I sing, I told myself. I ended the conversation.

After several more attempts, I finally connected with someone who seemed to make sense. The long commute from my house to Marikina just for an audition didn't seem to be too much of a sacrifice, especially not if this was going to be THE band. Three of us auditioned that day and since they were having problems with the studio they rented, the first part of the audition was held at the house of the bassist. We were asked to choose a couple of songs from their videoke list and sing them. It was starting to sound like a big joke but I intended to go through with it. "Get Here" and "Hero"—cheese overload, I know—were my songs. I pitied the 16-year-old who auditioned before me. She chose "In My Life" thinking it was John Lennon's hit. She fumbled her way through Patti Austin's song. The second part of the audition took place hours and hours later. The audition was supposedly from 1 to 2 p.m. We were still there at 8. Before we finally settled down, we were herded from one studio to another (disorganization personified). We were asked to jam with the band that, despite appearances, played well.

The band was ready with their decision that same night. The 16-year-old girl was turned down on the spot. The guy's audition went fine. And apparently, so did mine. I was in. But at that time, I already knew that wasn't the band for me. Number one was the evident lack of organization and professionalism. And while two of the members were okay, one guy was too cocky for comfort. They also wanted to dye my hair—they wanted all of us to dye our hair. I wanted a band, not a boy band. I wanted this to be about the music, not the image. For weeks after that, they kept calling, telling me to be patient, that we would meet again soon, they were just fixing management problems, etc. I'm not going to budge. They can take all the time they want. Forever sounds long enough.

The real chance at a performance came much much later. The day I got back from India, mom said my cousins had been frantically looking for me. That night, they surrounded me and said, "We have a favor to ask." It turned out they wanted to join a band competition and needed a vocalist. "Yes," was the quick answer. No second thoughts, no nothing. Where I got the guts and enthusiasm, I cannot say. We only had around a week to prepare. And it was finals week in school. The next day, we rented a studio at Robinsons Place. There we were, cousins Chrissie, Felice, Kat-Kat, Chrissie's bandmate from school Rhon, and I, trying to figure out which songs we wanted to play. My brother, the band's drummer, had cotillion practice so he bailed out. Days later, we spent another afternoon in a different studio. The whole band thing was heavy on our schedules and our pockets. We had our songs—No Doubt's "Just A Girl" and "Sunday Morning," The Fugees' "Killing Me Softly," The Braids' "Bohemian Rhapsody," Babyface and Des'ree's "Fire" and Tracy Chapman's "Give Me One Reason," but somehow, things just weren't coming together. We needed more members. We got my uncle Anthony and Chester to play, too. By this time, we only had one day to rehearse. The plan was for us to rehearse from 8 a.m. (with breaks because my brother and I had exams in the morning) and then head straight to the competition by 7 p.m.

Mom, who is also into music, decided to step in and help us. We weren't going to be ready, she said. We had to practice the night before. By 12 midnight, we were in a seedy corner of Araneta, the only place we found a 24-hour band studio. Kat-Kat couldn't make it. Chrissie took over the keyboards. We practiced again and again. The night wore on. Pretty soon it was 4:30 a.m. We decided to call it a night.

The next day, we all met at the same studio for a final practice. Tension was starting to build up. I kept saying, "The important thing is for us to enjoy. Let's just have fun onstage."

Kat-Kat, Rhon and I rode one car so we could continue practicing the harmony. The past days, I did not have an ounce of nervousness in my body. But when we got closer to the place, I felt my hands getting clammy and my throat dry. I had visions of me stomping around a huge, well-lit stage and then slipping and landing on my rump in plain view of hundreds of people. It did not help that we got lost. MTV Listen UP! was to be held near the Innotech building in Commonwealth. We had no idea how to find it. We circled the Commonwealth area thrice. A barrage of calls and text messages followed. The other band members were wondering where we were. They had to wait by the side of the road so they could wave at us when we passed by.

Finally, we arrived. I said goodbye to my big stage vision. There was only the back of the truck that had been converted into a small performance area. The crowd, which was mostly composed of UP students, did not look threatening at all. I felt the tension lifting away.

We looked at the schedule. Us amateurs would be playing alternately with professional bands. There were a lot of them. Session Road played, so did Fatal Posporos and Sandwich. For some reason, our schedule kept being pushed. Bands kept playing before us, even if we were told we were to be next. Evidently it was going to be a long wait. I decided to plop down on the pebble-strewn concrete ground. (Thank God I followed Kris' advice about not wearing a skirt.)

I spent most of the waiting time talking to Charley from MTV who was surprised to see me there. "Are you a UP JMA member?" she asked. "No, I'm here to sing," I said sheepishly.

Finally, it was our turn. The stage, small as it was, was well lit. Because of the spotlights, I could hardly see past the first row of people watching. The show's hosts talked to me while the band set up their instruments. I had to explain why we chose the name Mozzie. Eager to just start playing, I must have mumbled throughout the interview because the girl suddenly said, "I think she's shy." Uhh, no. I just wanna get it over with, thank you.

When we started playing, I completely abandoned all thoughts of sarcasm and nervousness. I just focused on having fun on the stage, playing with the microphone stand, dancing and skipping around (that must have been a funny sight) and singing. My enthusiasm might have been too much for my microphone. It got detached from the cable. Good thing Rhon stepped in quickly and handed me a different microphone. I had a blast. It helped that the people in the audience were singing along, it helped that they applauded after the songs. Every time I sang the part "I thought I knew you..." in "Sunday Morning," the audience sang the part, "Whoa!" and that filled me with warmth.

I wouldn't say our performance was excellent. We did botch up a couple of times. But I think we played fine—because we had fun.

After we played, we all decided to head off to Wendy's. The day's excitement made us forget to eat. We were too hungry to wait for the show to be over. It was during our meal that we received a text message from one of the organizers. We lost.

It didn't make me feel sad. I congratulated everyone. I think we did a good job, despite the lack of time.

The next day we found out that we came in second. And that the complaint about our performance was that the volume was too low. Maybe it would be a good idea to bring technicians into the group.

The whole competition had not been a waste of time. I got such a high from performing onstage. And I learned a lot of things. I saw the hierarchy in the music industry. That it doesn't matter if you are there early or if you are scheduled to play; if a band that's considered bigger (in our case, much bigger) than you decide it should play first because it needs to go off somewhere after, you have no choice but bow your head and let it do what it want. I learned the value of patience. When you waited almost the entire day to be able to audition, when you spent four hours sitting on the hard concrete whiling away the time before your 20-minute performance—you would inevitably realize the need for tolerance and a good book.

Life in a band isn't all glamour. What you see onstage isn't everything. You don't see the endless hours of rehearsing, the petty quarrels, the hard work.

The audience is god, not you. No matter how good you think you are, no matter how hard you practice, if the crowd is not receptive, all the hard work goes down the drain.

For one night I experienced a small dose of the respect that musicians get. After stepping off the stage, people seem to view you differently. Then again, that might have been just my imagination.

The most important thing, I believe, is music. People seem to lose track of that. Play not for the money and not for the recognition. Play for the passion, for the love of music. It is, after all, this love that binds you as a group.

The days I spent on this assignment were well spent. Would I do it again? Yeah! Performing gives you such a rush.

Later this week we'll be playing in a Montessori in QC After that, we'll work on our originals (we have a few in our hard disks) and start recording. For some reason, a talent manager wants our demo tape. More fun? Definitely. Fame and fortune, here we come? Nah. Maybe not. ***Pam Pastor***

*E-mail the author at cookiedoughjunkie@yahoo.com*

THANKS TO DIVINE PASCUAL, ROBBIE CARMONA, RX 93.1, MTV

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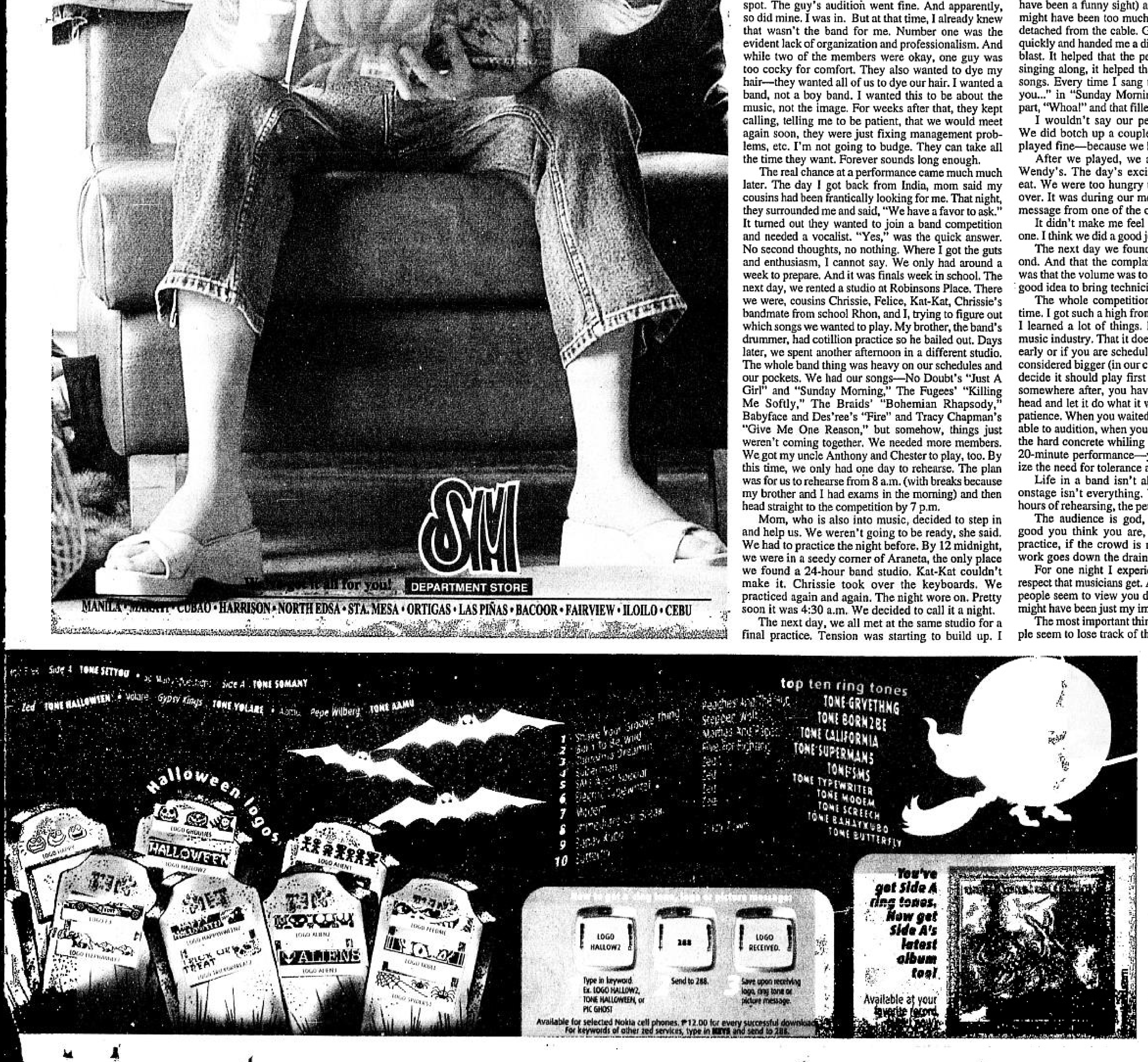

Halloween logos
top ten ring tones
TONE GRVETHNG
TONE BORN2BE
TONE CALIFORNIA
TONE SUPERMANS
TONE SMS
TONE TYPEWRITER
TONE MODEM
TONE SCREECH
TONE BAHAYKUBO
TONE BUTTERFLY
LOGO HALLOW2
288
LOGO RECEIVED.
Type in keyword. Ex. LOGO HALLOW2, TONE HALLOWEEN, or PIC GHOST
Send to 288.
Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.
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For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
You've got Side A ring tones. Now get Side A's latest album too!
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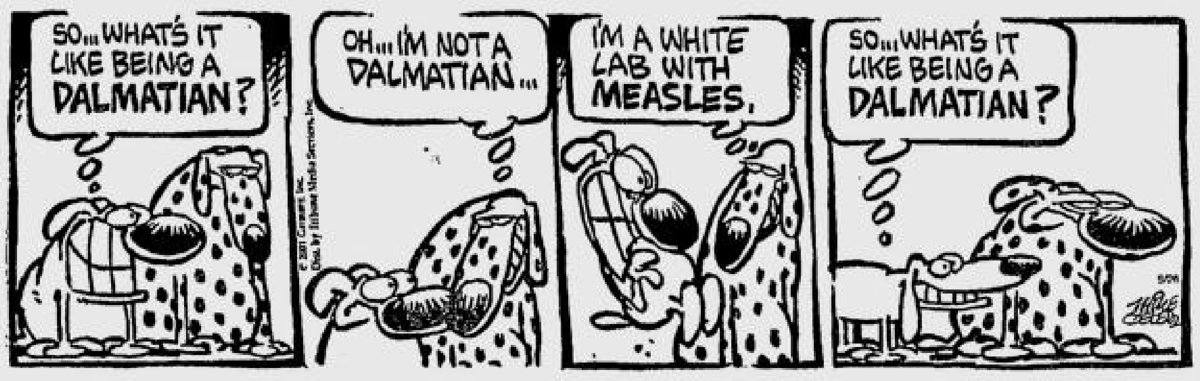
# COMIC Relief

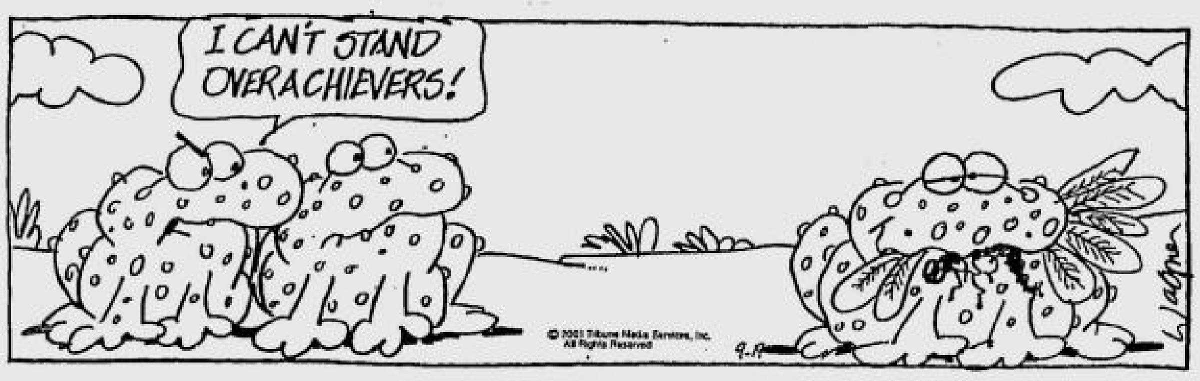
## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SO... WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A DALMATIAN?
OH... I'M NOT A DALMATIAN...
I'M A WHITE LAB WITH MEASLES.
SO... WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A DALMATIAN?

## ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I CAN'T STAND OVERACHIEVERS!
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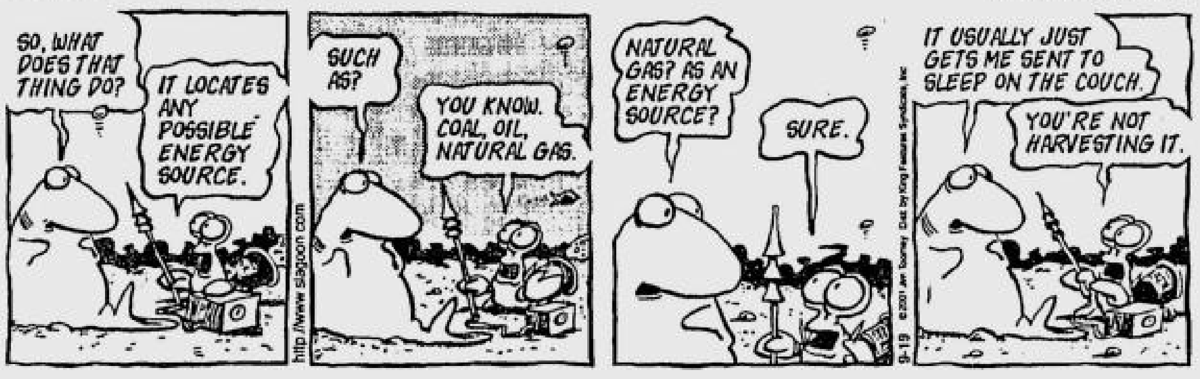
9-17

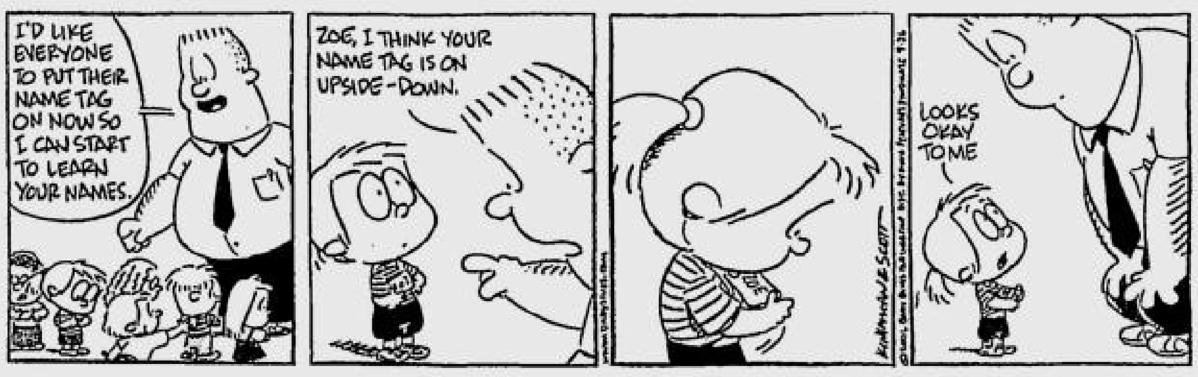
## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, WHAT DOES THAT THING DO?
IT LOCATES ANY POSSIBLE ENERGY SOURCE.
http://www.slagoon.com
SUCH AS?
YOU KNOW. COAL, OIL, NATURAL GAS.
NATURAL GAS? AS AN ENERGY SOURCE?
SURE.
9-19
IT USUALLY JUST GETS ME SENT TO SLEEP ON THE COUCH.
YOU'RE NOT HARVESTING IT.

## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO PUT THEIR NAME TAG ON NOW SO I CAN START TO LEARN YOUR NAMES.
ZOE, I THINK YOUR NAME TAG IS ON UPSIDE-DOWN.
LOOKS OKAY TO ME

# HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kevin Kline, Bill Wyman, Kweisi Mfume, Doug Kellogg, F. Murray Abraham

**Happy Birthday:** You are loyal, trustworthy and exceptionally hardworking. This is a year of transition and change. Accept it and be willing to move with the times. Second-guessing will lead to regrets. If it feels right, go for it. The more precise you are, the better you'll do. Your numbers: 16, 19, 30, 34, 41, 46

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Social events will lead to romance, love and personal stability. Do some shopping for youngsters in the family. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and return the favor.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't wear your heart on your sleeve. You stand a better chance of getting your way if you play hard to get. Don't be upset if your partner overreacts. At least he or she cares.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** A change should be welcome. Let go of the past. Move in new circles, develop relationships and pick up additional skills.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Your budget has been pushed to the limit. Do some work at home without hiring extra labor. Look into all the ways to cut back. The more you save now, the better you will feel next year.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your charm will mesmerize the love interest you've been eyeing. You can solidify the relationship if you plan an evening together. If you are already in a relationship, your generosity will be rewarded.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Impress your boss with your creative ideas, practical insight and hard work. Your position won't change overnight, but you're moving up.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Ask for money that is still owed to you. Make changes regarding your position. Don't let others take credit for your work. Stand up for your rights. You need to be aggressive to move forward.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You won't be seeing things clearly. Don't unnecessarily annoy someone you care about. It's best to keep busy with relaxing activities and forget your troubles.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will have a problem with in-laws or friends if you let them push you into talking about a controversial subject. Don't let your relationship be affected by outsiders. Back off if necessary.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Money madness strikes. You will fall victim to a "get rich quick" scheme if you put cash into a risky venture. Don't trust that fast-tongued new acquaintance. Save instead of spending.

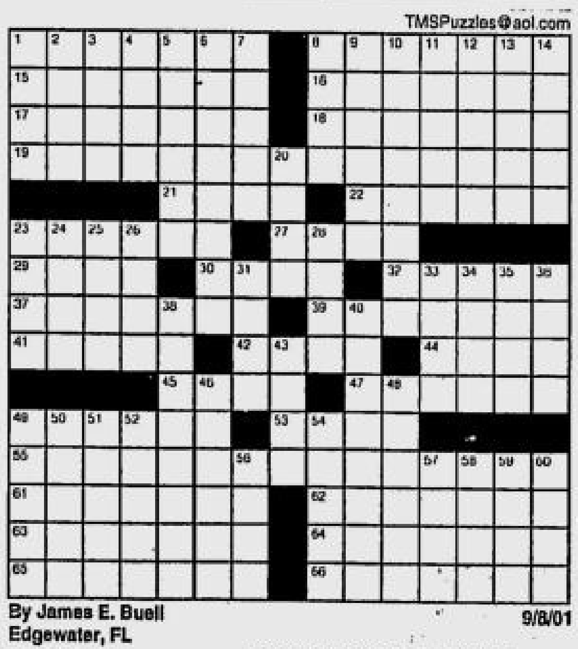
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You will be creative and romantic. Plan that classy evening for two. Your partner will appreciate your thoughtfulness and savoir-faire.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Be careful not to offend someone. Use your good ideas to formulate a plan of action and complete everything on time. You'll impress others if you are well-organized.

**Birthday Baby:** You are passionate about your beliefs and will stand by anyone worthy of your help. You are an "all or nothing" person and will never back down.

# DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



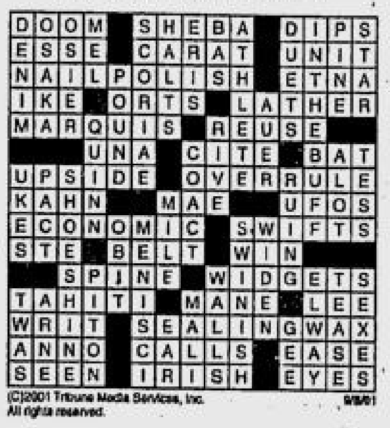
By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

9/8/01

**ACROSS**
1 Hold up
8 Paving substance
15 Vine
16 Wretchedness
17 In general
18 Superficial
19 Mums the words?
21 Japanese novelist Shusaku
22 Winter apple
23 Career grand slam tennis champion
27 Salinger girl
29 Movie pig
30 Wall St. group
32 Jewish teacher
37 Economic warfare tactic
39 Largest inland body of water in the world
41 Philippines island
42 Comes down with
44 Building additions
45 Put to sea
47 Shaq's target
49 Formulated beliefs
53 Matured
55 Mums the words?
61 Left out
62 Trumpet-shaped protozoan
63 "No, No, __"
64 Some postal workers
65 Captivate
66 "Luther" dramatist

**DOWN**
1 Ad-lib like Ella
2 Celestial bear
3 Toll
4 Fringe benefit
5 Musical pieces
6 Replacing a facing
7 Prevailing force
8 Writer Sholem
9 Wriggle
10 Chasers
11 Window catches
12 Athol Fugard play, "A Lesson from __"
13 Cairo in "The Maltese Falcon"
14 Secret rendezvous
20 Sorrows
23 Second of Adam's sons
24 Competitive pastime
25 Dear __
26 Usher
28 Fringe group
31 Hindu mystic
33 Mimics
34 Swindle
35 Hay unit
36 Part of MIT
38 Fall back on
40 Incombustible fibers
43 Lively enthusiasm
46 Strong points
48 Part of speech
49 Genetic duplicate
50 Director Polanski
51 Basketball player Patrick
52 Talk out of
54 Artist's canvas coating
56 Long, lyric poems
57 Not fooled by
58 Latin way
59 Foot woe
60 Old Gaelic language

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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| I | K | E | ■ | O | R | T | S | ■ | L | A | T | H | E | R |
| M | A | R | Q | U | I | S | ■ | R | E | U | S | E | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | U | N | A | ■ | C | I | T | E | ■ | B | A | T |
| U | P | S | I | D | E | ■ | O | V | E | R | R | U | L | E |
| K | A | H | N | ■ | ■ | M | A | E | ■ | ■ | U | F | O | S |
| E | C | O | N | O | M | I | C | ■ | S | W | I | F | T | S |
| S | T | E | ■ | B | E | L | T | ■ | W | I | N | ■ | ■ | ■ |
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| T | A | H | I | T | I | ■ | M | A | N | E | ■ | L | E | E |
| W | R | I | T | ■ | S | E | A | L | I | N | G | W | A | X |
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| S | E | E | N | ■ | I | R | I | S | H | ■ | E | Y | E | S |

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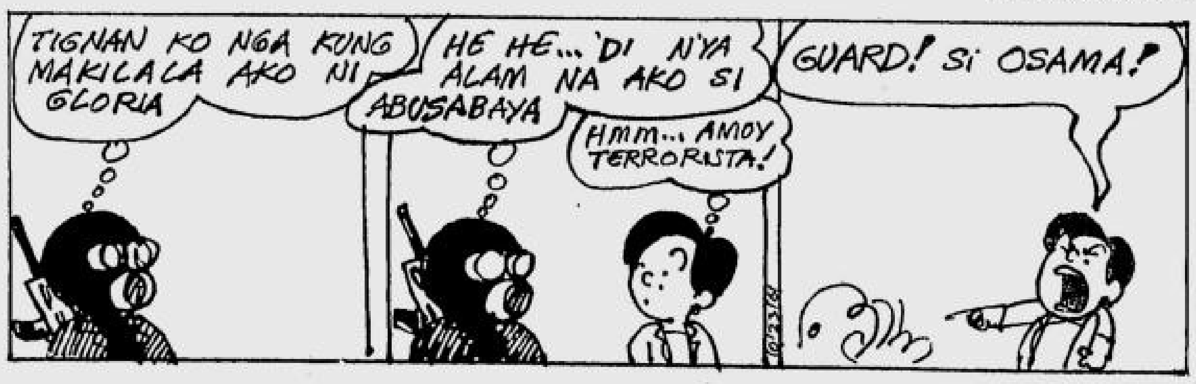
9/8/01

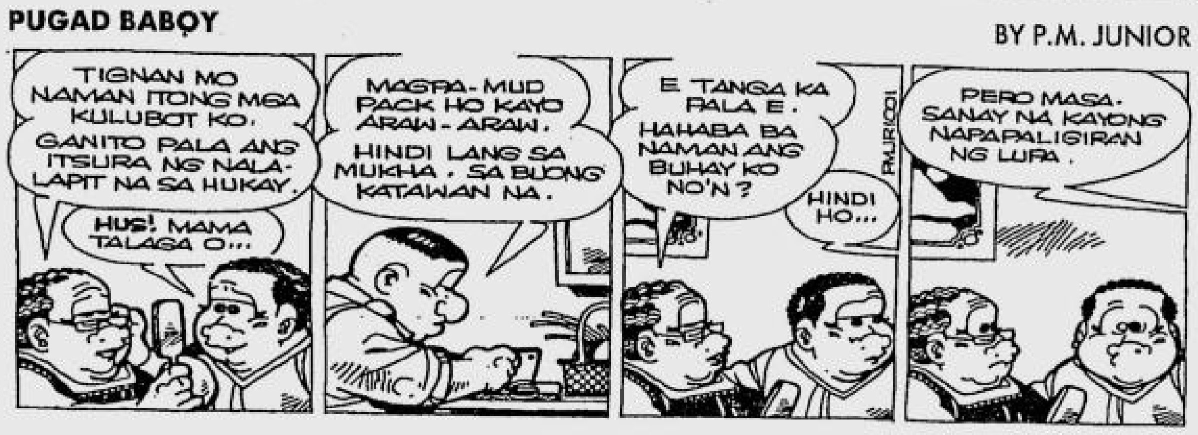
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TIGNAN KO NGA KUNG MAKIKILALA AKO NI GLORIA
HE HE... 'DI N'YA ALAM NA AKO SI ABUSABAYA
HMM... AMOY TERRORISTA!
GUARD! SI OSAMA!

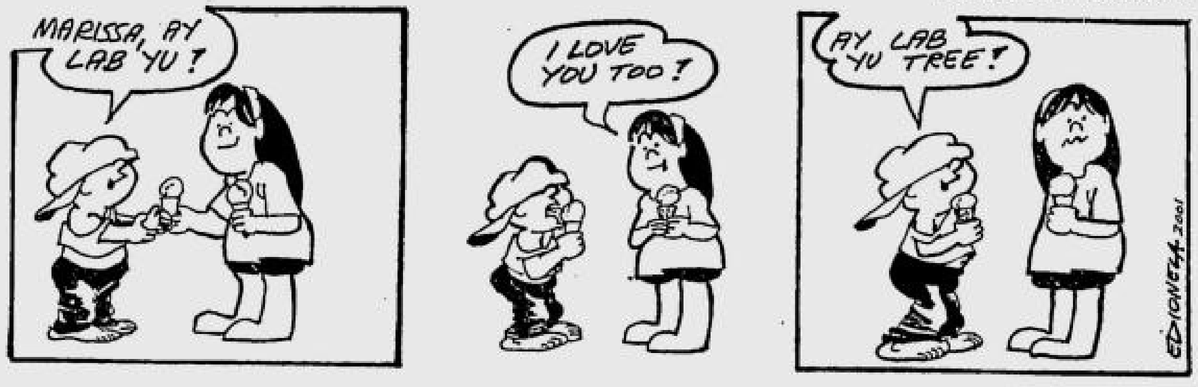
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO NAMAN ITONG MGA KULUBOT KO.
GANITO PALA ANG ITSURA NG NALALAPIT NA SA HUKAY.
HUS! MAMA TALAGA O...
MAGPA-MUD PACK HO KAYO ARAW-ARAW.
HINDI LANG SA MUKHA. SA BUONG KATAWAN NA.
E TANGA KA PALA E.
HAHABA BA NAMAN ANG BUHAY KO NO'N?
HINDI HO...
PMJR'01
PERO MASASANAY NA KAYONG NAPAPALIGIRAN NG LUPA.

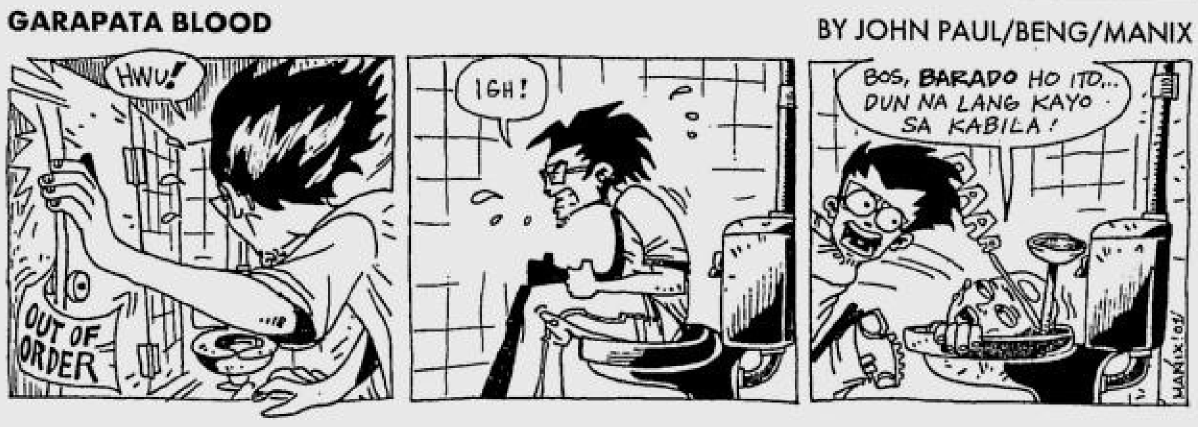
## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MARISSA, AY LAB YU!
I LOVE YOU TOO!
AY LAB YU TREE!
EDIONELA 2001

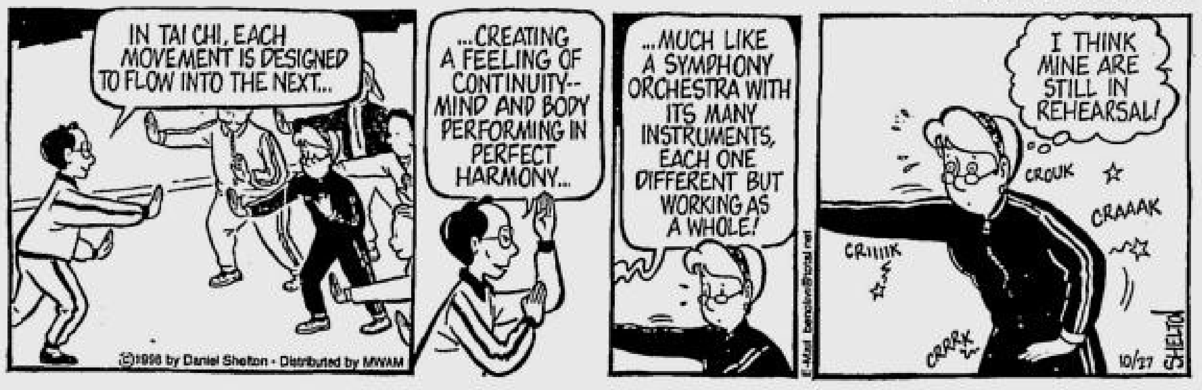
## GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


HWU!
OUT OF ORDER
IGH!
BOS, BARADO HO ITO... DUN NA LANG KAYO SA KABILA!
MANIX!01

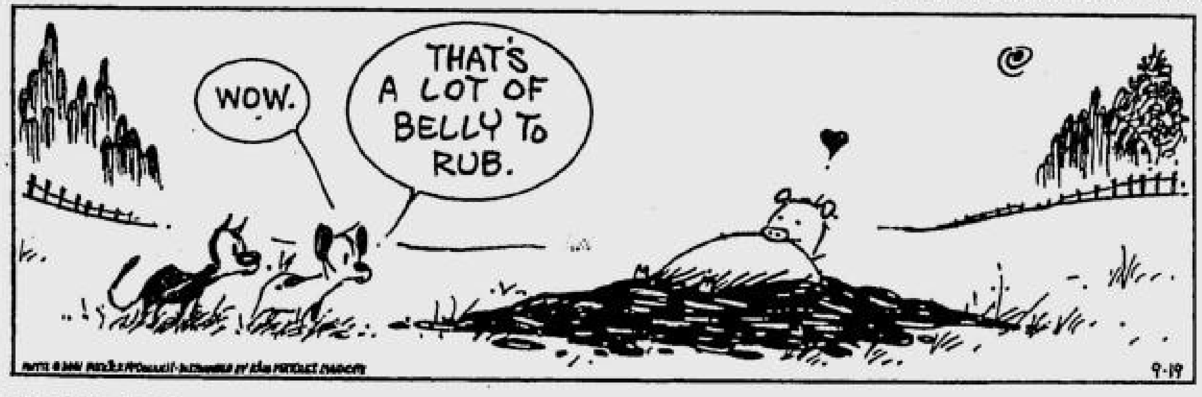
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IN TAI CHI, EACH MOVEMENT IS DESIGNED TO FLOW INTO THE NEXT...
©1998 by Daniel Shelton · Distributed by MWAM
...CREATING A FEELING OF CONTINUITY-- MIND AND BODY PERFORMING IN PERFECT HARMONY...
...MUCH LIKE A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH ITS MANY INSTRUMENTS, EACH ONE DIFFERENT BUT WORKING AS A WHOLE!
I THINK MINE ARE STILL IN REHEARSAL!
CROUK
CRAAAK
CRIIIIK
CRRRK
10/27
SHELTON

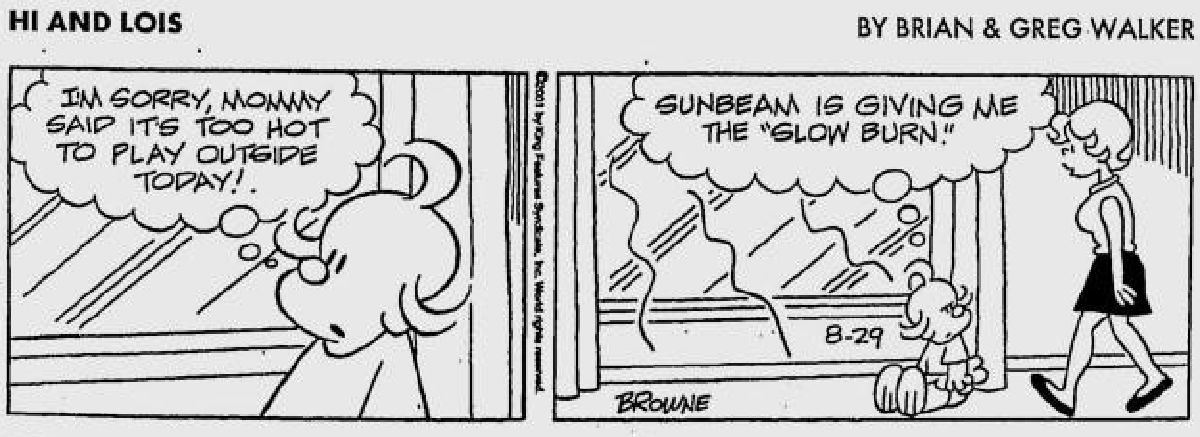
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW.
THAT'S A LOT OF BELLY TO RUB.
9-19

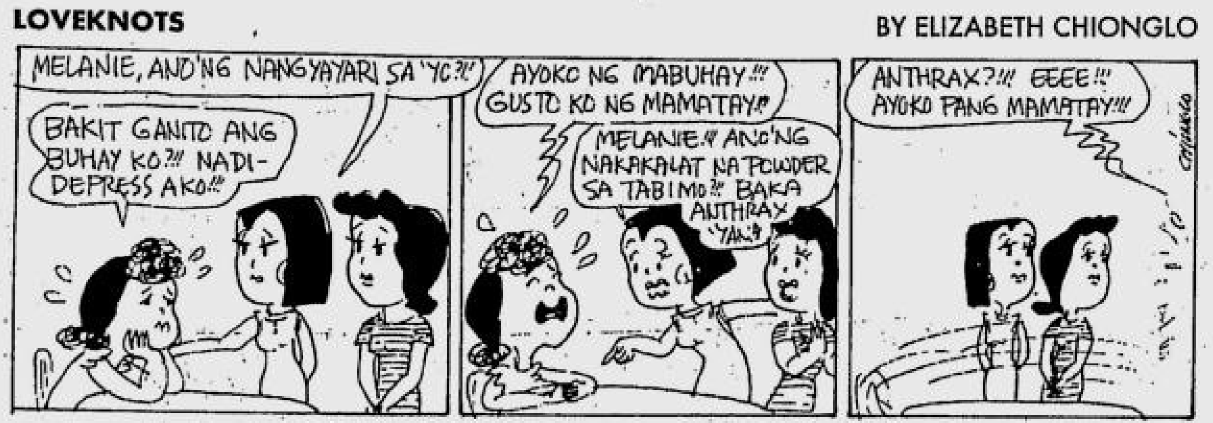
## HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M SORRY, MOMMY SAID IT'S TOO HOT TO PLAY OUTSIDE TODAY!
SUNBEAM IS GIVING ME THE "SLOW BURN."
8-29
BROWNE

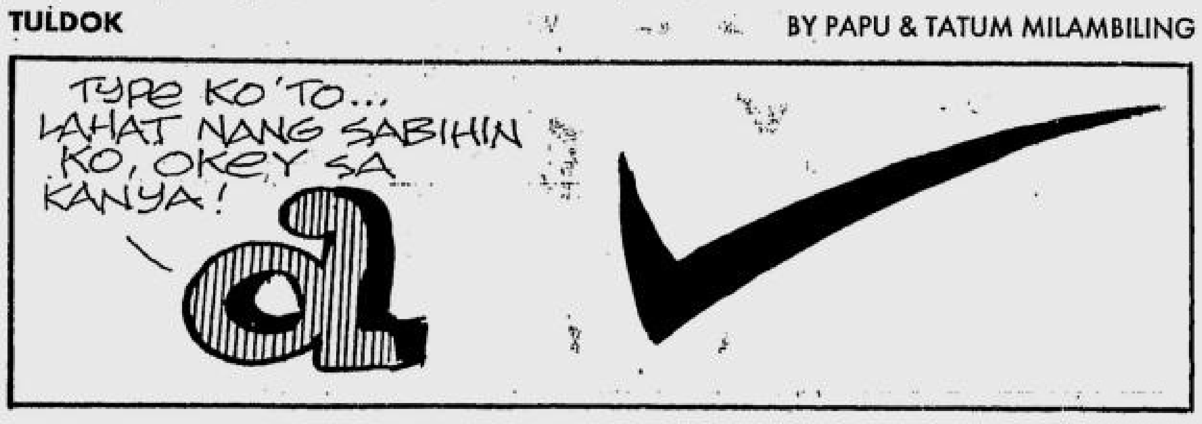
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, ANO'NG NANGYAYARI SA 'YO?!!
BAKIT GANITO ANG BUHAY KO?!! NADI-DEPRESS AKO!!
AYOKO NG MABUHAY!!! GUSTO KO NG MAMATAY!!
MELANIE!! ANO'NG NAKAKALAT NA POWDER SA TABI MO?!! BAKA ANTHRAX 'YAN!!
ANTHRAX?!!! EEEE!!! AYOKO PANG MAMATAY!!!
CHIONGLO

## TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


TYPE KO 'TO... LAHAT NANG SABIHIN KO, OKEY SA KANYA!

# 'Dimwit' finds public acceptance

**By Franco Mabanta**
*2bU! Correspondent*

FOR THOSE who do not know what a VTR (video tape recording) is, they are to commercials what auditions are to stage plays.

My agent told me it was "only being in front of a video camera instead of an entire director's panel, so don't worry about it!" Of course, what he really meant was: "You won't have to make a moron out of yourself in front of a group of people. We'll just record your stupidity and show it to everybody afterward."

That's what I went through before Coke. Being the pathetic "model" I am, I did more than 30 VTRs, which got me only minor roles in two commercials including one for a sanitary napkin. After a few months of getting nowhere, I became frustrated. I decided to stop cutting classes and give up attending auditions.

Then, one day, my agent's assistant called to say Coke was holding another VTR for their newest promo. She said it was a huge campaign and literally every agency would be sending their talents. Coke needed several weeks to audition everybody. I felt like I did not stand a chance of getting whatever role she wanted for me. Besides, I was still feeling frustrated with my past "track record," so I declined.

After a day or two, she called again to convince me to go. She said the same old things: "Nothing to lose!" and "*Maraming* chicks! *Punta ka na!*" To make her happy, I finally went. After looking like a dork in front of the camera for the nth time, I went home not expecting anything.

After about a week, my agent called: "Franc, Coke wants you back. They're choosing between you and another talent of mine." I immediately did what any normal guy would do and asked if he wasn't confusing the Coke lead role with the next diarrhea mascot. "Tomorrow at 3 p.m.," he said.

The next day, I went, did what they asked me to do, and left. Another week passed, and the call came. "You got it," announced my agent. I was ecstatic, so freaking happy. In Coca-Cola's opinion, out of the 400 people that auditioned, I looked like the biggest idiot. Wow! What a feeling.

### Familiarity breeds . . .

So here I am getting teased every day but also having the time of my life. My lines are mimicked endlessly, nobody calls me by my real name anymore, and I've been hearing the expression "Gosh!" more than I care to.

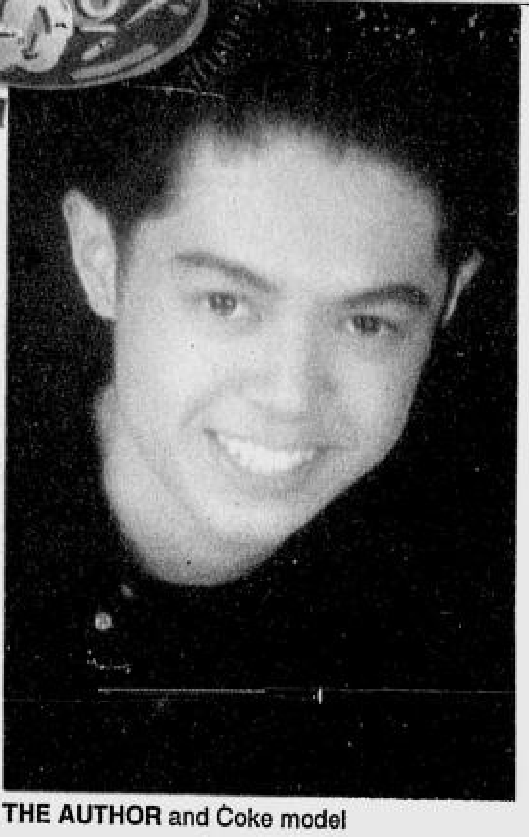
A good friend introduced me to a bunch of second grade children about a month ago: "Girls, this is Franco. You remember Jasper from the Coke commercials?" "Oh yeeaah!" they said, their young faces wreathed in smiles. "You're so stupid!" I love kids.

But everything's in good fun. In public, everybody is so unbelievably warm and friendly—something I did not expect to happen because I even irritate myself when I see me on TV. People flash genuine smiles and wave so excitedly—especially the kids—that you can't help but smile and wave back.

When they ask for autographs, I try to act cool and collected but I am totally not used to it. I am flattered like anything. All my friends tease me mercilessly and call me names but they treat me the exact same way they used to. No one has tried to use me for selfish purposes because they all know I am the same dimwit I was before Jasper.

So I guess, ultimately, despite all the *asaran* here and there—and this is something I did not expect to say—I have been having so much fun because of the commercial and I am extraordinarily thankful. It has been so awesome so far. I am really grateful to the writers and concept-creators of Coke—even if they wanted to dress me up as Lara Croft in one of the print ads.

Who would have thought that making a fool out of yourself on national television would turn out to be so enjoyable? I certainly didn't. But it has been great.


**THE AUTHOR** and Coke model

Coke's funny character Jasper is played by someone who admits he's used to making a fool of himself

# Seven-pocket pants for mobile professionals

DOCKERS has taken technology in its seams, literally. Mobile™ Pant, the latest from Dockers, features seven pockets to accommodate the growing number of techie gadgets that the Pinoy businessman has to carry around.

Cluttered briefcases, overstuffed pockets are common in the Filipino corporate world. Waistlines trimmed with pagers and cell phones do not elicit special attention either. But they do not look sleek. They do not look sexy. They look bulky.

Dockers Mobile™ Pant is a must for every businessman anywhere. Innovation lurks in every seam and stitch of the Mobile™ Pant as it accommodates the on-the-go lifestyle of today's professionals. Practicality, technology and style are embossed in every Mobile Pant.

The new Dockers features seven pockets, each with a separate function and aimed at reducing the clutter in men's briefcases and around their beltlines. Mesh pockets replace standard side pockets and are deep enough to hold large items, such as checkbooks or airline tickets. Within the right front pocket is a hidden zip pocket that keeps valuables such as keys and loose change. Along the side of each pant leg are customized "stow-away seam pockets" with hidden zippers. These are designed to carry mobile phones and personal digital assistants while maintaining a comfortably tailored look and feel of the classic pants.

The cotton, wrinkle-free pleated pants come in black, cement and olive while the flat front pants are in khaki, coffee and midnight.

**FUN ON THE RUN.**
PETIT Monde unveils its fun sneaker line, a collection of canvas shoes in white, navy blue and khaki that is great for casual and active people. Pair them with your favorite pair of jeans or wear them with skirts and spags for a day of fun and fashion. Available at all Petit Monde boutiques at SM Malls, Robinsons Galleria and Ermita and Festival Mall.

Instant nationwide coverage with over 1,495 cellsites

Lowest at ₱6.50 per minute!

The lowest prepaid cell phone call rate, when it really matters.

Touch Mobile makes it easy with the lowest rate. Only P6.50 per minute to any cell phone or local landline throughout the day. The lowest from 8:01 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., Monday to Saturday.

Aside from our unique voice services like Voice Messaging and Voice Info, you can also make regular voice calls and text messaging.

touch mobile

Easy technology. Easily in touch.

AYALA CORPORATION Singapore Telecom International Deutsche Telekom

Get TOUCH Mobile from any Globe or Islacom Business Center or any cell phone dealer. For details call 730-1500.
TOUCH MOBILE is the latest cellular offering of Isla Communications Co., Inc. (ISLACOM) in cooperation with Globe Telecom. Any similarity to other logos, marks and brandnames is purely coincidental.

# Kung Mga KWen2 ang Trip Mo...

NEW

# TxTales

from

TALK 'N TEXT GSM

ang bagay sa 'yo!

## RED LADY

Madilim ang gabi sa isang ancestral house nang nagpakita kay Ella ang isang babaeng nakapula, mga paa'y nakalutang sa lupa at lumuluha ng dugo. Ano talaga ang sekretong bumabalot sa Red Lady? Makalabas pa kaya nang buhay si Ella at ang kaniyang barkada?

## SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Sa kagustuhan ni Des at barkada niyang malaman kung sino ang pumatay sa kaibigang si Marj, sila'y nag-spirit of the glass. Makayanan kaya nilang harapin ang katotohanan? O ang ibang ispiritung maaring sumapi sa baso?

## MANDALA'S TRIBE

Isang tribo ang minasaker at inilibing kasama ng kanilang kayamanan sa isang misteryosong kuweba. Makalipas ang pitong-daang taon, isang exploration team ang nakatagpo sa kuweba at sa malaking panganib na naghihintay sa sinumang kumuha ng kayamanan...

## MANANANGGAL

A bloodthirsty creature of darkness. A young, brave boy named Nonoy. And terrifying family secrets that suddenly unravel one terrifying night. Can a boy defeat the Manananggal as well as the forces of darkness that threaten to take over his body?

## ANG SUMPA NI MATILDA

Binigo sa pag-asang maibig ni Josh, black magic ang igaganti ni Matilda sa binata. Lingid sa kaniya, dala niya ang sumpang di siya maaring umibig. May pag-asa pa kaya siyang lumaya sa sumpa at lumigaya? Ano naman ang mangyayari kay Josh?

## It's easy to get started!

NOVELA MANANANGGAL

Just type NOVELA and the title of the story...

241

Then send to 241!

HELP

To get the available commands and keywords, type HELP, then send to 241.

## To complete the FUN, puwede ka pang magdownload ng picture messages!

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE CREATURE WITH THE LONG TONGUE?

PIC N28

Type PIC <code>

241

Then send to 241

## Choose how the story develops, choose your own adventure!

What happens next? Choose (1)Nonoy looks for his mother; (2)Confronts d creature

At certain points in the story, you will be asked to choose how you want the story to continue...

CHOICE 2

Type CHOICE and the number you want...

241

Then send to 241

## At mayroon ding special ringtones!

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE THEME SONG OF THE STORY?

TONE T21

Type TONE <code>

241

Then send to 241

Download requests will be charged as follows: help and other regular commands – ₱2.50; ringtones and picture messages – ₱12.00

Ringtones and Picture Messages can only be downloaded and previewed using selected Nokia handsets

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